



ABOVE: A cheque for Help the Heroes, (SEE PAGE 24 FOR DETAILS).

# Bridgend & Porthcawl

# GEM



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THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2010

## Bridgend teacher denies charge of raping teenage girl

A BRIDGEND teacher plied a teenage girl with cocaine before raping her while she slept, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

It was stated that department head Huw Davies (38) invited the drunken 19-year-old girl to his home, where he allegedly laid out three lines of cocaine on a marble table.

A jury heard that the drunken girl fell asleep – but woke up making her boyfriend was making love to her. She allegedly then came round to see Davies raping her.

Davies, former head of Welsh at Brynteg Comprehensive School, denied rape and supplying the teenager with cocaine.

Prosecutor Leighton Hughes said: "Plainly under the influence of drink and drugs, she thought it was her boyfriend and called out his name. But then she opened her eyes to see an unfamiliar room and the defendant."

Police turned up at Davies's home after the girl's mother reported her missing when she failed to arrive home. The court heard that police found a bag of cocaine on the table and traces of the drug in two bedrooms.

Mr Hughes said:

"They met in a pub where Davies told her he was a Welsh teacher and said he had a girlfriend.

"She told him about her boyfriend and it was an ordinary conversation, but the bar manager observed her getting increasingly drunk, talking loudly, singing and dancing. She was drink-

ing tumblers of whisky and shortly after 9pm she was refused any more drink. Somebody suggested going to the defendant's home for more."

The court heard that Davies took the girl and another man to his home, where he laid out the lines of cocaine. Mr Hughes said: "She asked if she could go to sleep for a while and her next recollection is waking up on her side and being aware of someone having sex with her.

"She was in no position to give any sort of consent to what she was doing. She moved herself away from him and asked for a glass of water – then drifted off back to sleep.

"She woke the next morning to the sound of police officers knocking on the door and calling her name."

When police escorted the girl back to her parents' house she made the allegation of rape.

Mr Hughes stated: "She said a man took advantage of her and raped her when she was asleep."

Davies claims they had consensual sex after the teenage girl made a pass at him. He told police: "It was joyful and happy and I am in absolute shock as to the accusations you have put to me."

Davies denies rape and supplying class A drugs. He admits possessing cocaine.

*The trial continues.*

## First 'catch' for Lifeguards in big fundraising drive



ABOVE: Sker and Pink Bay nippers visited Finnegan's Fish Bar to say 'thank you' for the donation to the club.

Sker and Pink Bay Lifeguards have been busy planning fundraising events for the year.

The money raised will be used to replace essential life saving equipment, and to support the ever-growing Nipper and junior sections in the club.

When Huw Jones, the owner of Finnegan's Fish Bar, heard of the event planned for the day on May 28 at the Grove Golf Club with the donation of £250 – a great catch for the club and a fine start to the fundraising.

Just to show their appreciation, a few of the clubs Nippers turned up early one morning to thank Huw personally for his kind donation.

Another fundraising event planned is a golf fundraising activities, he day on May 28 at the Grove Golf Club with the donation of £250 – a great catch for the club and a fine start to the fundraising.

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### Anti-social behaviour targeted

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour is to be targeted by local police as result of a priority decided by the new chief constable.

Insp Steve Evans said that the emphasis would be switching to dealing with these incidents over the coming year. (See page 7).

## Council defers the Broadlands changes

THE Bridgend borough council cabinet has deferred controversial plans to change the catchment area of the primary school at the Broadlands Estate in Bridgend.

Officers had proposed taking some streets out of the catchment for Maes Yr Haul Primary School, which does not have sufficient capacity to cope with the demand for places.

Instead, they want

chairman of the association, said: "We remain

unconvinced of the need for this change. Fundamental questions about the plans remain unanswered. In particular, questions remain about the reliability of the forecasts that underpin this plan.

Residents fear that the plans will harm the community of Broadlands, and there are concerns about the safety of children travelling to school in Laleston. The council would have to provide a safe route to school for children to walk.

Arfon Hughes, vice-chairman of the association, said: "We remain

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## Fighting for Porthcawl

**W**ITH the elections once again to the fore, the public are again reminded of the scandal of MPs' expenses; is it a case that all those MPs involved should, as a matter of principle and honour, stand down and not seek re-election?

It is generally accepted that during elections, prospective MPs and councillors promise the earth, but once elected their promises are mostly unfulfilled.

### Relatives sought

**I** AM trying to trace some of my relatives and wonder if GEM readers can help?

Eleanor Rose Oliver, died 1940, aged 49 in the Bridgend district. Her daughter, Kathleen Mary Oliver, was born 1912 in Eltham, south-east London, and married Alfred Mummary in 1939.

They were the parents of Brian D Mummary (born 1941) and Jean E Mummary (born 1942).

### Can readers help build family tree?

**I** AM researching my family tree and am looking for descendants of my grandfather's sister.

Her name was Margaretta May Jones and she was born in Bridgend in 1901. She married Christopher Williams in 1923 and had four sons, two of whom were called Glyn

### 'All manure has dangers'

**V**IV PRITCHAR D's recent letter about horse poo reminded me that in all animal manure, dangers of some sort lurk.

During the First World War, it was estimated that two million horses died. One of the warnings to the soldiers was "do not let the horse tread on your feet" because the manure, being mixed with earth, contained the deadly spores of gas gangrene from which many sol-

In Porthcawl over the years, there have been numerous debates and discussions on one of its most momentous projects – the regeneration of the town and the people's right for a swimming pool and sports centre.

In view of the many vital decisions still outstanding regarding the regeneration project, it is essential that we have a forceful, active and strong MP and councillors, irrespective of their political views, who will speak out and fight for the requirements of Porthcawl.

John Jenkins,  
Porthcawl

## Battalion 'touched' by community response **WELSH GUARDS SAY 'THANK YOU' FOR A WARM WELCOME**

**T**HE 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has sent Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) a special thank you for the warm welcome extended to the regiment earlier this month.

Residents packed pavements and bridges to cheer and applaud the Battalion and its band as they marched through the streets, continuing their series of homecoming marches through Wales's towns and cities.

In a letter addressed to the Mayor of

Bridgend county borough, Colonel Tom Bonas thanked BCBC for its particular efforts to welcome the regiment.

He said: "We were truly honoured to see so many local people and dignitaries and so greatly touched by the warmth of the welcome from all. I know it made a big impression with the men."

The Mayor, Coun Jefferson Tildesley, said: "On behalf of BCBC and the citizens of the borough, I can say that we were both pleased and proud to be able to show our support in this way. Their efforts are hugely respected by the people of the county borough."

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, added: "Bridgend county borough has a proud tradition of supporting our troops and, once again, citizens turned out in force to honour these brave men and women."

### 'Doorstep crime' expert offers advice

**C**ARERS in Bridgend County Borough were asked to help in the fight to tackle doorstep crime at an event held in Bridgend.

More than 40 carers attended the event, which was organised jointly by Bridgend Trading Standards and South Wales Police.

Doorstep crime expert and former West Yorkshire Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Steele addressed the audience, explaining the vital role they can play in bringing criminals to justice. By being alert to the signs of doorstep crime and learning tips to keep residents safe, carers are perfectly placed to help vulnerable people to stay safe.

Brian Steele said: "To see so many people turn up to this event and show their commitment to catching these ruthless criminals is very encouraging. Make no mistake, we are not dealing with 'cowboys' here; these are professional criminals and we must do all we can to bring them to justice and raise awareness of this type of crime."

Doorstep crime can affect anyone, but often it's older, vulnerable or socially excluded people who are targeted by rogue traders, bogus callers and distraction burglars.

Victims are often too embarrassed to say what has happened to them, making it one of the most under-reported areas of crime. An esti-

mated nine out of 10 cases will never reach police or trading standards.

The BCBC deputy leader, Coun David Sage, said: "We can all play our part by looking out for our neighbours, especially if they are vulnerable.

"We also need people to tell the police or trading standards officers here at the council if they think they have been targeted."

Tips that could prevent the person you care for from becoming a victim:

- Use the 'if in doubt - keep them out' message. You do not have to open your door and it's not rude to ask someone to leave;

- Keep doors locked and use precautions such as a door bar, door chain and spy hole;

- Keep gardens and the outside of the property tidy. Rogues will often target homes that look poorly maintained;

- Encourage the safe storage of money, credit cards, cheque books, savings books and other valuables;

- Always ask if anything unusual has happened or whether anyone has called uninvited;

- Where crime is suspected, don't handle flyers, bills, tools or anything else left behind and don't be tempted to tidy up any mess as all of these things can hold useful information about the identity of the doorstep criminal;

- NEVER engage with a trader who has simply 'cold called' at the property.

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### Out-of-work adults will receive support

**A** PROJECT which will support out-of-work adults has been backed by Bridgend County Council cabinet members.

The regional COASTAL (Creating Opportunities and Skills Teams Alliance) Project is an EU-funded scheme aimed at providing vocational guidance, employment skills, training and lifelong learning opportunities for adults who are economically inactive as a result of disability or social disadvantage.

It focuses on promoting recovery and building on strengths and capabilities, to make those being targeted less dependent on services. Cabinet members

A further report will go to the cabinet to look at how the project may be funded in the future.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for well-being, said: "This is good news for people with significant disabilities and challenges.

"It is an excellent example of us working collaboratively with other local authorities and fits in well with the positive work we are doing here in Bridgend remodelling our adult social care services."

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 22)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
15 Thur	07.47	9.5	20.03	9.7
16 Fri	08.21	9.6	20.38	9.6
17 Sat	08.57	9.4	21.11	9.4
18 Sun	09.36	9.3	21.46	9.2
19 Mon	10.12	8.8	22.28	8.8
20 Tues	10.57	8.5	23.22	8.3
21 Wed	11.55	8.1		
22 Thur	00.24	8.0	13.12	7.8

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.*

## LOCAL INFORMATION

**M**ADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002. HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777 JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034 CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320 Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549

**B**RIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 - Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm - information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm - advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm - information only. MASTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

**P**OLOCIE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

### HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer

01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

### MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCA 0800 005000

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

### BRIDGEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643;

(emergencies out of hours) 01656 643643;

(homelessness) 01656 643643.

EDUCATION 01656 643643

#### LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643643

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752/668090.

Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752/668090.

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

#### TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 0790 460 4049

Coychurch Higher Comm Council 01656 863418

Coychurch Lower Comm Council 01656 647216

Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council 01656 720086

Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council 01656 738804

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Comm Council 01446 750663.

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoed Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Comm Council 01656 725031

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# HOMELESS SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED IN BOROUGH

A SCHEME aimed at tackling homelessness is being extended – after approval by Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet.

The authority says it has been working closely with Hafod Housing Association and Foundation Housing on a pilot project to increase the supply and quality of temporary accommodation for homeless people within the county borough.

A council spokeswoman reported: "Considerable progress has been made through the pilot, with more than 100 cases prevented this year alone, but there is still pressure for more."

"Cabinet members recently approved the extension of the private sector leasing scheme in the council's public pro-

Bridgend, after hearing how it has proved a successful and cost effective alternative to bed and breakfast provision.

"The scheme has avoided bed and breakfast costs of approximately £80,000."

She continued: "Placing individuals and families in bed and breakfast accommodation results in a loss of housing benefit subsidy, making it a very expensive housing solution for councils; but the homeless clients referred under the Bridgend scheme have been given a temporary tenancy by Hafod Housing, making them eligible for 100 per cent housing benefit subsidy."

"The scheme has also enabled these private sector properties being used to be brought up to a higher standard, and

tention department has had an input into properties that they would otherwise not have had the opportunity to inspect.

"So far, the scheme has only benefited families with children, but the extension will mean single people in bed and breakfast accommodation can be helped in the same way."

Coun John Spanswick, cabinet member for communities, said: "This is a positive response by the council and its partners to a serious issue."

"We are able to provide better quality accommodation for families and people who face a difficult and vulnerable time in their lives and we are able to meet our statutory duties in relation to homelessness in a more cost-effective way," he explained

## The Cefn Cribwr war memorial to be moved

**BRIDGEND** county borough's cabinet has agreed to alter the regulations governing Mynydd Bach Common, Cefn Cribwr, so that the village war memorial can be moved there.

The community council had asked for permission to erect a new war memorial on the common, which the council regulates.

Coun Huw David, who sits on both councils, said that, at present, the war memorial takes the form of a bus shelter, with memorial tablets listing the names of those killed in the two world wars.

The shelter had been subject to vandalism over the years and it was felt that a proper memorial in a prominent location

should be provided. "Lots of people, even some living in Cefn, do not realise that the bus shelter is our war memorial and we felt it was time to do something that would honour the memory of those who were killed."

If no objections are received within the three-month period, the council can then confirm the alteration.

## Council reassured after the Grand Pavilion fire scare

**PORTHCAWL** Jazz Festival will go ahead this weekend – after fire damage at the Grand Pavilion forced the previous week's programme, a performance by

the Bridgend Youth Theatre, to be called off and re-scheduled.

The festival starts tonight (Thursday), and will run until Sunday.

Meanwhile, Porthcawl town councillors were concerned to hear about the fire at the pavilion.

Coun Rosemary Deere said that her heart sank when she first heard there had been a blaze, and she was upset for the young people who were due to stage a performance there.

Clerk Alison Leyshon said she had been informed that the new stage curtains paid for by the town council had been damaged, but they were fully insured and the insurance assessors were due to inspect the damage.

Next month there will be a coffee evening, which will include a couple of stalls and a lucky dip.

The branch meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Unitarian church hall. Anyone wishing to join is welcome.

## Branch looks to the Link meeting

### NOTTAGE WI NEWS

**A**T the monthly meeting of the branch in Unitarian church hall, the president welcomed members and the minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Final plans for the Link meeting on April 21 at Awel-y-Mor, Porthcawl, were discussed and also the spring council meeting on April 22, in St David's

Hall, Cardiff. The members then had a fish and chip supper, followed by bingo and a chat! The raffle prizes were won by Mrs Lesley Davis and Mrs Joan Thomas.

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## SUNSHINE DAY FOR THE KRUF 'WALK FOR LIFE' IN PORTHCAWL



LEFT:  
The Mayor of Porthcawl Coun Rosemary Deere cuts the tape to set the walkers on their way at Nottage.

## Local volunteers meet 'pen pals' – in Spain!

**PRIME** Cymru, the charity founded by The Prince of Wales to help older people become and remain economically and socially active, has just started a new international programme.

The Chairperson of the Porthcawl branch of KRUF (Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation), Jean Schofield told The GEM: "We have already raised £1,600 this year, and I do expect to pass £2,000."

She added: "It seems such a long time since we started the Porthcawl branch."

"We were checking the other day and the first walk took place in 1989. In those days we started from the Seabank."



ABOVE: Beverley Kennett (on left), and Lindsey Wells.

Europeans. To be shown people to engage in a pan around Valencia by my penpal was a real pleasure and a privilege."

The Grundtvig EU-funded programme allowed local people to be exclusively for the attend workshops in young Spain.

"Modern technology

can be empowering for older people and they need support to avoid being digitally excluded from its benefits."

Learning, travelling and experiencing alternative cultures should not be exclusively for the young.

The week-long pro-

gramme involved informa-

tion and educational

visits to the cultural cen-

tres of Valencia.

Welsh volunteers met their pen pals from Turkey, Spain, Poland and Slovakia.

Terry Mills, chief executive of Prime Cymru, also attended the workshops and said:

"This is a wonderful opportunity for older people to help this work."

## Now, where did all those quirky sayings come from?

**A**T the April meeting of Merthyr Mawr WI, president Margaret Batten welcomed Phil Caradice, the speaker for the evening.

A man of many talents, a writer, a teacher, an historian, a broadcaster, Phil gave an interesting talk entitled "Where did that come from?"

There are many phrases people use in everyday life without a thought on where they originate from.

He explained the origin of many phrases such as 'white elephant', 'rule

of thumb', 'to eat humble pie'.

The talk was interspersed by readings of his own poems. Alice Coulter gave a vote of thanks.

Members were reminded of forth-coming events: the half-yearly council meeting will be on April 22, when the speaker will be Ruth Jones.

The link meeting will be at Colwinston, when the speaker will be the 'Singing Speaker'.

On May 5 at Ewenny Community Hall, there will be the resolutions meeting and a bring and buy stall will be held in aid of 'Light a Candle'.

## CHARITY NIGHT

A night to raise funds for Cancer Research Wales takes place in Porthcawl on Saturday, May 8, at the Hi-Tide and includes a two-course meal and entertainment. Tickets cost £10. The event gets underway at 7pm.

Tickets (£10) are available from the Hi-Tide, or from Mary Emmett Lewis on 01656 772238.

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**RIGHT:** Former Eastenders actress Kacey Ainsworth presents Mal and Gail Thomas with their certificate, recognising their 'green' achievements in the local community.



## Community Connections praised for 'green' work

LOCAL couple Mal and Gail Thomas of Community Connections, Bridgend are pictured here with celebrity Kacey Ainsworth at the Future Friendly awards on April 8 in Kew Gardens, when Community Connections were highly commended for their 'green' achievements in the community.

The group was nominated for the Future Friendly Community Award, which sought out

communities who are making a real difference by championing sustainability. This year's awards saw hundreds of entries, nearly 6,000 votes, and a very high standard of nominees, who all demonstrated inspiring work being done to help improve the environment.

The winners of the awards were the 1st Clanfield Scouts Group from Hampshire, and the McDermid Family from West Lothian.

## West Camp to honour Sir Winston Churchill

PART of the huge St Athan Ministry of Defence site may be re-named in honour of Sir Winston Churchill.

Brigadier AJS Storrie has written from the MoD in London to the Mayor of Llantwit Major, Councillor Russell Downie, asking for his comments.

Brig Storrie said that West Camp at St Athan had been developed as a separate base for the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment and the other force elements within West Camp.

"Internally, it will make clear that Churchill Lines sits distinct from, and stands outside, the area occupied by the Defence

Technical College development planned for the remainder of the site.

He said that in order to ensure that the distinction was clear, it was proposed to rename West Camp Churchill Lines.

He said: "This name has been chosen to recognise and commemorate Churchill's role in the history of the Parachute Regiment and the other force elements within West Camp."

Councillor Downie said that he was supporting the proposal; "I have always been a great admirer of

Sir Winston Churchill and the way he saved this country from the Nazis during the war.

"It is fitting that his name is used as part of the camp."

Councillor Downie said that although the letter had been sent to him as mayor, he would be placing it on the agenda for the next town council meeting so that all councillors could express their views.

Councillor Downie said that he was supporting the proposal; "I have always been a great admirer of

## Taste of opera from Jeff...

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

**O**WING to the January meeting being postponed, an extra meeting was squeezed in at the end of March.

Opera singer Jeff Jeffs, affectionately known as 'The Singing Speaker' spoke about his favourite comic characters on stage and screen.

Jeff has sung for many leading opera companies and members were treated to hearing him sing some of his favourite operatic pieces.

At the April meeting, president Joy Brooking reminded members that the line meeting of

Llanharry, Pontfaen, Llanblethian and Ystradwgan was on April 14 at Ystradwgan Hall, hosted by Pontfaen WI.

Some grants may also be available from Coed Cymru for small scale access and woodland management work.

The wood will be adjacent to the new Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School, which is currently being built.

Rowena Millward was welcomed by president

Joy Brooking, who spoke about her teaching experiences in Port Elizabeth.

This was a volunteer working holiday, teaching English and supporting children in a classroom with very little resources, and it was amazing how material were improvised.

The competition was a knitted vest to fit babies up the age of two to be sent to Kisizi Hospital, South Uganda.

There were 24 vests on display, knitted by members, in a wide variety of colours using a set pattern.

Rowena had the hard task of judging these and said each one was worthy of first prize.

However, one had to be chosen and Kath Worgan's was the lucky winner.

Birthday wishes were sent to Mrs Rhianydd Jervis, an honorary life member, who is 98 on April 15.

JR

## Leisure centre unveils new facilities for the disabled

**RIGHT:** The Wick family are pictured at the new facilities for the disabled with Assembly minister Jane Hutt AM.



The new facilities for the disabled.

ASSEMBLY cabinet minister Jane Hutt AM joined Sol Jorgensen and her son Seth, from Wick recently, to view new facilities for disabled people at Cowbridge leisure centre, after the installation of a fully-equipped 'Changing Places' room, designed by Vale Council architect Paul Scourfield.

Ms Hutt said: "Seth and Sol Jorgensen are now able to visit the centre to use the gym with the confidence and convenience of a fully equipped and automated 'changing place' for disabled people."

"As a response to the MENCAP 'Changing Places' campaign, the Vale Council is providing these facilities, which should attract many more disabled visitors and users."

"The Welsh Assembly Government is funding these facilities across Wales."

"If this suits disabled people, it also suits their carers and the public at large. Congratulations to the Cowbridge leisure centre, Paul Scourfield and to the personal trainers who have supported Seth in opening up the gym for his enjoyment."

## Interesting tales of a policeman's lot

NEWTON WI NEWS

AT the April meeting in Gilgal Church Hall on Woodlands Ave, the forthcoming agenda was one of the first matters up for discussion.

On April 21, members will be holding a Link meeting in Awel Y Mor commencing at 7pm, an evening which will be both informative and entertaining.

On May 5, there will be a Resolutions meeting which will be followed by a fish and chip supper. Instead of luncheon club on May 12 members will be going to Bryngarw Country Park in the early afternoon for a leisurely stroll around the beautiful gardens, followed by afternoon tea at 3.30pm. Let's hope that the weather

will be kind and show Bryngarw at its best.

On May 19, they will be making an early start (8am) for an educational trip to Stratford on Avon with its numerous interests followed by an afternoon visit to Bourton on the Water.

Speaker this month was PC Steve Gorwill on the subject of 'A Traffic Policeman's Lot,' who gave a very informative picture of 29 years performing a very arduous and essential job – dealing with very serious and dangerous incidents but also with lighter moments.

The branch would welcome any new members or those wishing to find out more. Contact Rosemary on 01656 783772, or Judy on 01656 785477.

## Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mr G Dower – 3 Florence Street, Porthcawl – two storey extension.

Mr M Holl – plot at end of Garon Terrace, Nantymoel, Bridgend – proposed first floor bedroom and shower unit.

Brackla Way, north of Brackla Infants School, Brackla, Bridgend – detached dwelling and ground floor workshop/garage.

Brackla Community Council – land off Brackla Way, north of Brackla Infants School, Brackla, Bridgend – building for recreational and education facility, new access road and car parking, relocate existing children's play area.

Miss R Hartland – building plot r/o 22 Dan y Coed, Blackmill, Bridgend – outline application for a bungalow.

Mr and Mrs I Mackie – Maes y Gwaelod, Pencoed – change use of old farmhouse to living accommodation, single

storey extension and pitched roof to garage – affecting 1/3 of the garage.

Mr C Witts – 10 Brick Row, Maesteg – proposed kitchen/bathroom extension to rear (amendment to 08/932).

Mrs L Lewis – 8 Heol y Berllan, Pyle – single storey front extension providing porch and increased area to front lounge.

Mr and Mrs Washbourne – Cefn Gelli Farm, Bettws Road, Llangefni, Bridgend – construction of a detached double garage.

Mr H Balston – Ty Cornel, Main Road, Cychurch, Bridgend – porch to front of property and car port to side of property.

Mr C Rees – building plot r/o 6 and 7 Forest View, Blaengarw, Bridgend – four bed detached house with garage.

Mr D H Jones – 13 Crossfield Avenue, Porthcawl – single storey ground floor extension and raise roof over existing garage/sun room at first floor level.

Hawkestone Properties – Unit 3, Brackla Street Shopping Centre, Bridgend – creation of shopfront.

Miss R Williams – 66 St Michael's Way, Brackla, Bridgend – construction of a detached double garage.

Mr H Balston – Ty Cornel, Main Road, Cychurch, Bridgend – porch to front of property and car port to side of property.

Mr C Rees – building plot r/o 6 and 7 Forest View, Blaengarw, Bridgend – four bed detached house with garage.

Mr D H Jones – 13 Crossfield Avenue, Porthcawl – single storey ground floor extension and raise roof over existing garage/sun room at first floor level.

## Traffic lights to stay for several years... St Bride's road bridge repairs will be delayed

THE traffic lights at the Ewenny Bridge on the B4265 look likely to stay in use for the next three or four years.

The lights were installed as a safety measure until work could be done to strengthen the bridge, which is owned by Network Rail but jointly managed by the rail company and the Vale Council, giving it a 40 ton capacity.

In a report presented yesterday (Wednesday) to the Vale Council cabinet, officers say that the traffic lights were regarded as an interim measure in 2008, when the condition of the bridge was assessed.

As a result of that assessment, the existing traffic signal system was installed to give priority to large vehicles leaving the nearby

quarry. This limits the traffic movements over the bridge to single way working and thereby relieves the 'live loading' on the bridge.

A report was presented to the Vale Council cabinet on July 9, 2008, recommending that funding be allocated and that the council enter into an agreement with Network Rail to strengthen the structure so that the scheme could be included in Network Rail's Capital Works Programme 2010/11 – a proposal agreed by the cabinet.

The estimated cost to the council was £629,000. The work involved replacing the bridge deck completely on strengthened and widened abutments; the load carrying capacity of the bridge would be 40 tonnes and standard

lane widths (2 x 3.65m) would be provided. The report now says: "Unfortunately, Network Rail then failed to include the scheme in their capital works programme for 2010/11."

"Officers have again met with representatives from Network Rail and confirmed the council's intention that the structure be strengthened."

"Network Rail have confirmed that they have provisionally included the strengthening/replacement scheme in their 2013/14 programme."

*The work is now estimated at £782,000, and the council's liability would be 86 per cent of this figure, which equates to £672,500.*

## WIN A RECORDING SESSION FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BAND

LOCAL people are being given a chance to vote for their favourite band and help it to win two days in a recording studio, courtesy of the Manic Street Preachers.

Bands from all over south Wales will be competing in the final of The Gathering's Battle of the Bands competition at Bridgend Recreation Centre on Saturday, April 24 from 1pm-10pm.

Each vote will contribute to the final judging score and will also dictate the playing order, the band with the most votes playing last and the band with the least votes, playing first.

The winner will receive, among other prizes, a £500 cash prize and two days' recording time with engineer in the Manic Street Preachers' studio in Cardiff.

Manics Nick Wire said: "The Gathering and similar projects, are a fantastic opportunity for young musicians in South Wales to get on stage and show their skills to a live audience.

"To encourage them, we are happy to offer two free days recording time in our studios in Cardiff to the winners of The Gathering."

Vote for Offset from Bridgend county borough; Stars and Flights from Neath Port Talbot; The Venue, Innovenue, Evolution and Decoy from Gwent, or Ladies Love A Superhero from Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Young musicians throughout south Wales have been competing in local area heats to win a place in The Gathering final. It is supported by the South Wales Music Forum (comprising eight south Wales local authorities) and Rockschool (who have also awarded cash prizes).

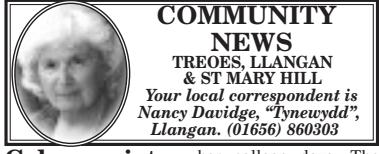
Bridgend County Borough Council's Arts



Manic Street Preachers who are donating prize to winners of the Battle of the Bands final.

Development Officer, (four-piece) Andre van Wyk, said: "No-one wants to be the first one band on stage. If you care about your favourite band, get online and vote from April 17-23, as you can determine what order they appear. The band with the most votes will play just before headliners, The Guns."

The Gathering Youth Festival will also feature headliners The Guns, April 17.



COMMUNITY NEWS  
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL  
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan (01656) 860303

**Charity appeal**  
FORMER Llangan Primary and Co w b r i d g e Comprehensive school pupil, Louise Jones, is preparing for a very tough challenge.

Louise and a group of friends are attempting to climb the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours to raise money for Motor Neurone disease research.

The group's friend, Paul Hartland, was diagnosed with the disease a few months ago at the age of 33.

Louise and the group decided to do something positive, however, small, has really helped, she explained.

Any GEM readers wishing to donate to this worthy cause, can go to [www.justgiving.com/wal kingforpaul](http://www.justgiving.com/wal kingforpaul); or direct to Louise Jones, No 1 Olaf Court, 50A Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DG.

Louise has always taken an active part in sport during and since

## Parade of dolls through the ages

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI

THE April meeting of Ystradown and district WI took place in the village hall on April 7 when the speaker was Steve Jarvis, who presented his collection of old fashioned toys.

These are kept with care in a wicker hamper and the first toy to come out was a Welsh china doll dating back to 1889 and still in pristine condition. She was dressed in the traditional Welsh costume from that era. He next presented three dolls made by a lady called Nora Wellings around 1900. These Steve had

cleverly secured in glass bottles to protect them.

One of the dolls was dressed in a sailor's outfit and the enterprising lady had embroidered the names of cruise ships on the hats and these were sold on the cruise ships.

Next came a familiar item, the Chad Valley spinning top and then Steve's very own Chad Valley teddy bear. At that time, Chad Valley was produced in their factory in Wellington Shropshire.

During the 20th century, many changes took place and many well known companies were taken over by the

Lines Brothers, who bought Triang toys and produced items such as trikes and scooters.

They also owned Hornby and out came an original double O gauge train set. Dinky toys were another asset of the Lines Brothers and Steve produced a dinky car in the original box.

President Val Owen thanked Steve for a very interesting presentation. Finally Val chaired the business session for the month.

Email your WI branch reports to: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk) or by post to address on page 2.

Anne was born in Canada and married a local man Kevin, and has lived in Barry since 1992. Anne's aim is to sell unique hand crafted products and this has become her passion in sourcing one of a kind items, hand crafted, Fair Trade, Eco-friendly, recycled etc. There will be something for everyone in the shop. Ie, hand made leather journal from the USA, Cluckie Bunnies, each one hand sewn and one of a kind, a variety of drinking glasses made from recycled wine and beer bottles, hand made bags from Vietnam etc, also offering a gift wrapping service.

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ABOVE: Ouch... Take that!

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Reflection Perfection

## Children's fitness is just a hop, skip and a jump away

CHILDREN in the Ogmore Valley took part in activities at Ogmore Valley Life Centre.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's active young people department, the holiday timetable combined old favourites with more unusual sports, such as archery, karate and basketball.

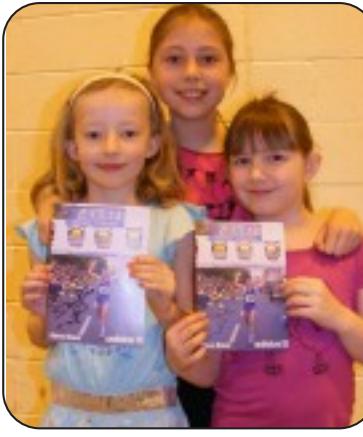
He said: "Regular exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is very important, especially at such a young age; all the children here today have the potential to become great athletes."

"We are extremely lucky in Bridgend to have the facilities to provide them with these opportunities."

Dean Protheroe, centre manager said:

"We have had an extremely successful Easter holiday this year with children seizing the chance to take part in all the activities and sports available."

"It has been great to see their enthusiasm, particularly in activities which many had never tried before, such as archery."



ABOVE:  
Learning the fun way to keep fit.



# BROTHERS BATTLE FOR WIN IN MEMBERS' RACE AT YSTRADOWEN POINT-TO-POINT

## The Glamorgan Hunt steeplechases draw bumper crowd

**REARRANGED** point-to-point fixtures are usually a bit of a disappointment, but not at Uplands Farm, Ystradown, where thousands of racegoers attended the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases – this was despite the attraction of Chepstow races and the televising of the Grand National in which local horse *State Of Play* finished a good third.

In the three-horse members' race, Tom David riding Brett Lloyd's 12 year-old 'chaser' *Roznic*, finished 20 lengths ahead of his younger brother Evan on *Phairy Storm*. *Mr Nemo*, the early leader, was pulled up four fences from home.

Back in 1984, Tom and Evan's mother, then Carol Thomas, riding her grandfather's *Cottage Chest*, beat her

### ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

brother John who was riding *Chastity Belt*. Evan and Tom's grandfather – Carol's father – Jim Thomas won it on *Mr Worth* when the races were held at Llanmaes in 1963.

The young horse maiden race was won by Luke Price's *HeslvorTheDriver* who came home 12 lengths ahead of *Cranemore*. The French-bred *Qomix*, backed from 4-1 to 4-5 favourite, trailed in last of the five finishers under John Mathias.

Luke (20) from Pontypridd, who paid just £820 for *HeslvorTheDriver*, was back in the winners' enclosure 40 minutes or so later after his eight-year-old *FrenchFurzeLad* had run out an eight lengths winner of the aged maiden.

Mrs Pearn, from Peterston-super-Ely in the Vale, bought the horse at the Doncaster Sales last August.

### PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:  
e-mail [glyn.evans01@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:glyn.evans01@tiscali.co.uk)  
telephone 01446 773225.

\*Now open in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



**LEFT:**  
One competitor and horse bracing themselves for a safe landing.

# Maesteg crime figures are down... BUT THERE IS LESS SUCCESS WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

**YEAR-ON-YEAR**  
crime figures in the Llynfi Valley are a success story, according to the sector commander.

Insp Steve Evans told Maesteg Town Council that the greatest success had been in the Caerau ward, which includes Nantyffyllon, which saw a big reduction in recorded crime over the past three years.

The comparisons were made between April 1 and March 31 for the years 2007 to 08, 2008 to 09 and 2009 to 10.

Dwelling burglaries in Caerau were reduced in the last year, from a high of 84 the year before and 74 in the first year, to 56.

There was a huge reduction in car thefts – down from 83 in the first year to 24 last year.

Incidents of cars being broken into and items stolen also fell over that period from 97 to 39. Total crime was down

by JAYNE ISAAC

from 755 to 533.

But there was less success with anti-social behaviour, where figures rose from 514 in 2007 to 569 last year – although this was an improvement on 2008, when the figure stood at 614.

Insp Evans said that the drop in crime figures in Caerau represented a massive reduction. A major factor was that some prolific offenders had moved away while others had grown up, and this had a huge effect on the car theft figures.

He said that detection figures had also risen at the same time from 22.8 per cent to 27.2 per cent.

In the east ward, there had been an increase in dwelling burglaries – up to 17 from 10, as a result of empty bedsits at the old Oddfellows Rest in Garth being broken into.

Other categories were up while some were down. He said incidents were also incidents in the town centre.

"Car theft has almost disappeared from Maesteg west," he added. Llangynwyd saw 55 crimes compared to 79 the year before.

There were four burglaries of houses, four burglaries of sheds and garages and four car thefts. Anti-social behaviour was down from 69 to 44.

Insp Evans stated that police would still focus on crime, as well as anti-social behaviour and the aim was to achieve reductions in both.

"They are often linked but it is a big challenge to make an impact, but we will do our best."

Coun Keith Edwards commented that there was a problem at the Somerfield store and railway station site.

"There's a particular problem with the old bridge that crosses the line," he said. "Kids are gathering on the bridge and jumping off into properties backing onto Zoar Avenue. They are also throwing stones onto houses."

He had written to Network Rail asking them to remove this bridge, which was there from the old railway station which closed in 1970.

He asked for an increased police presence and Sgt Paul Thomas promised to address it.

Insp Evans said that the public perception of crime was the opposite of the reality.

"People think crime is rising, but in the vast majority of cases it is down. We need to market this better and get the message across to break down this fear of crime."

"The whole point of increasing the precept was not to end up with a large pot of money unused at the end of the year. We have other projects as well, such as putting a pavement at Lock's Common and a pedestrian crossing in Newton Nottage Road.

"It all has to be managed but we must spend what's already in the pot and what will be in the pot next year."

Labour's John Bunker praised the Conservative administration, saying: "When I came back onto the council it was a

## Inter-party harmony on Porthcawl council!

**THE Labour and Conservative parties may be slugging it out across the UK in the general election, but peace and harmony has broken out between the parties in Porthcawl.**

The ruling Conservative group was proposing a grant of £30,000 towards the cost of a new pavilion being built by the Porthcawl Athletic Association at Lock's Lane.

Group leader Coun David Deere said that they had taken a decision to increase the precept this year and last, to create a pot of money that could be spent.

"There was criticism that the town council did not do anything, and that's why we went forward with a substantial

increase in our precept, but which worked out at an increase of 10p per week per household.

"That extra money is there for us to invest in the infrastructure of Porthcawl. We have managed to bring in extra funding to pay for the skateboard park."

"The whole point of increasing the precept was not to end up with a large pot of money unused at the end of the year. We have other projects as well, such as putting a pavement at Lock's Common and a pedestrian crossing in Newton Nottage Road.

"It all has to be managed but we must spend what's already in the pot and what will be in the pot next year."

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## Christmas tree – is it alive or dead?

**THERE** were echoes of the famous dead parrot sketch from Monty Python when Porthcawl councillors discussed the Christmas tree planted outside Porthcawl Police Station.

The council had decided to plant a living tree which could be used year after year, but Coun Norah Clarke said that in her opinion it was dead.

She said that it had been placed in a very exposed position, buffeted by winds blowing in

off the sea and had succumbed.

Coun Sean Aspby said that in that case it was now an ex-Christmas tree!

Coun Jill Sweet said that it has cost the council several hundred pounds and Coun John Bunker said that he had planted a Christmas tree in his garden which had survived, so there was no reason why this tree should have died – if indeed it was dead.

It was agreed to ask the suppliers to check the tree's vital signs to see if it has died, or if it is still dormant following the winter.

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## NEWS FROM BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

# Title deciders ahead for Time Lords and the Jedi

IT is going to be an important week for Bridgend Chess Club, with two of their teams vying for titles in divisions one and three of the East Glamorgan Chess League.

The Time Lords have turned back the clock and will look to seal their first title in many years with a home encounter against title-chasing rivals Cardiff Castles.

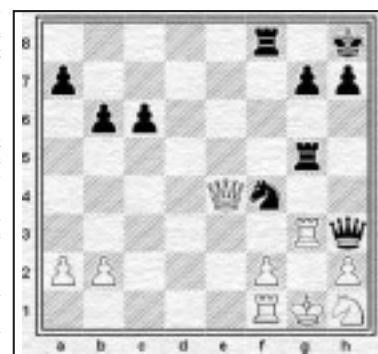
The stage is set for a ding-dong battle, the Time Lords needing three points to secure the title.

A score more favourable to the Castles would leave the title very much in the balance.

Bridgend Jedi have pushed all season for the division three crown. Swapping places with the Barry Camelots on numerous occasions, they currently share first place with the Barry team, both with 49.5 points.

Pontypridd Marauders will be the visitors to Bridgend and with several matches still to play, they could gatecrash the title party if the wily Jedi are off form.

Both matches will take place at the Bridgend



ABOVE: Can you solve this week's chess puzzle? See entry details at bottom of the article

share of first place. Luke Denholm, Nathan Trickey and Jonathan Edwards all finished with 3.5/7.

Vicky Massey found the going difficult, but once again enjoyed her tournament, gaining some valuable experience in the face of some strong opposition.

In the minor, Lauren Davies returned from her university studies in Aberystwyth to win the grading prize of £20. Finishing on an excellent 4.5/7, she cursed her luck as just a half point more would have earned a

Each week, there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs. In addition, each entry is placed into our monthly prize draw. Black to play

Mate in 2 moves  
Puzzle: BCC-020

Answer to puzzle BCC-018  
ANDREW TRICKEY  
1. g4++  
Winner: Mick King, Ogmore Vale.

**The weekly chess puzzle**  
**SOLVE the chess puzzle above and submit your entry to us.**

The Place For Homes  
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...is The Place For  
Half Price Beds



**GEM reader and green campaigner, Dinky Kennedy, was so taken by our April 1 exclusive on infamous Dutch tycoon Pieter Van Bleuw's latest diabolical plans, that she was inspired to put pen to paper herself – the headline is also her own!**

## 'Green and Bleuw united, in spite of impact on the environment!'

A meeting was held by the Transition groups in Cardiff and the Vale to discuss news (in The GEM) that Dutch entrepreneur, Pieter van Bleuw, is to build a massive smelting works on the Vale coast.

The Transition group in Penarth Marina agreed to mobilise a flotilla of small boats to support Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior, which was standing by to thwart the construction phase, due to start next April 1.

Both members of the newly-formed Transition group in Ogmor by Sea agreed that the only sensible action was to move house.

They had decided Windsor or Balmoral were the safest bet, as the Palace was unlikely

to allow similar blots to appear on their landscape.

Controversial opinions were voiced by the team who had cycled over from Port Talbot.

They said they couldn't see what all the fuss was about as they had suffered with this kind of thing for years.

A spokesman for the group said: "The best you can hope for is that the 60' tower is camouflaged. A daffodil won't do; it should be a subtle shade of green at the bottom and sky blue at the top."

However, in what can only be seen as a major U turn by the Transition group, it was concluded that this could offer a major opportunity to spread the Transition name and that the project would be embraced wholeheartedly in return for publicity.

The spokesman said:

"As a group, our aim is to instil a sense of community to Cowbridge and use this collective enthusiasm to engage people in activities that will improve the local environment, reduce its impact on precious finite resources and generally make the town and surrounding area a more resilient and positive place to live."

"However, on reflection, we just thought the opportunity to get the new Transition logo flying from the 60' tower was too good to miss.

"We would encourage all interested parties who would like to offer sponsorship of the 60' tower to come forward.

"Their names could fly alongside the Transition logo."

## Bosch workers' update talks

RETRAINING of Bosch workers and the future of the site were on the agenda when Vale AM Jane Hutt met the Bosch works council and the Unite union last week.

She commented: "Following our joint meeting in Stuttgart in February with the European Works Council and Bosch directors, I held a meeting with the Bosch Works Council and Unite the Union at the Senedd to progress the constructive discussion and correspondence with the Bosch management."

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BASSETTS CARMARTHEN (SALES OUTLET) 01267 238 800  
BASSETTS SWANSEA 01792 310900

## Wales not a digital guinea pig

I WAS sorry to read in the GEM on April 8 that James Wild is having trouble receiving ITV Wales ('Give us back our old analogue TV').

Digital switchover is now complete in Wales, and the vast majority of viewers have made the change without experiencing problems.

Those who do have reception issues can contact Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50 for initial advice.

After that, it may be necessary to consult a professional aerial engineer, who can assess the suitability of the aerial, the condition of cabling, and so on.

We recommend looking for a registered digital installer (RDI) who carries the 'digital tick' logo. If you can't find an RDI locally, look for someone with associate RDI or CAI plus status – or ask your local electrical retailer.

Wales is by no means a guinea pig for digital television. Nine out of ten households in the UK have already gone digital, and parts of England and Scotland have also completed switchover.

However, Wales is rightly proud to be the first nation to complete the process, and Freeview has become available to almost all Welsh viewers as a result.

Emry Hughes, Cardiff (National Manager, Wales Digital UK)

# Two military men are on parade as new deputy Lieutenants



**Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams with newly-appointed Deputy Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Col Barrie Davies (second left), his wife, Ruth, and current Deputy Lieutenant Colin Jones, of Barry.**

**RIGHT:**  
Brigadier Rick Libbey has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the preserved County of South Glamorgan.



TWO Barry residents have been appointed as deputy Lieutenant for South Glamorgan.

Col Barrie Davies, OBE, and Brigadier Rick Libbey, together with a number of previously appointed deputy Lieutenants, assist the Lord Lieutenant (Dr Peter Beck) as his 'eyes and ears' across the county and can also represent him at local ceremonies and official events.

Col Davies is Commandant of Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force and received an OBE in last year's New Year Honours list.

He said: "I am very honoured and proud to have been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the preserved County of South Glamorgan.

Welcoming the appointments, Vale

Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams said: "South Glamorgan is a preserved county of Wales

for purposes such as the lieutenancy, and is fortunate to have such a diverse mixture of

deputy Lieutenants, whose backgrounds and collective experience is so varied and rich."

**The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre. (Telephone 01656 725219).**

## Charlie in need of patient TLC



**THIS WEEK:**  
Charlie is a six-year-old English Springer.

A centre spokeswoman writes: "He's a complex dog who is sensitive when handled and can be reactive in situations he feels threatened in.

"He needs time to get to know and trust people. In other ways he is typical of his breed, being active and very playful.

"He has mixed with other dogs but is under socialised and struggles to make friends so he will need further help with his socialising.

"He is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.

"He needs a home with an experienced owner and he is not suitable with children.

"His new owner will need to be calm, patient and consistent with his handling, to allow him to build up trust with them.

"Charlie is a strong character but in the right home he'll make a rewarding companion.

"Anyone interested in him will need to visit him a few times at the centre."

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# Town Council sets aside £30,000 sum to go towards new athletics pavilion

THE Porthcawl Athletic Association is to get £30,000 from the town council, towards the cost of a new pavilion with changing rooms at their playing fields in Lock's Lane.

The association has obtained £92,000 towards the cost from other sources. The total cost of the scheme is about £160,000 and they are hoping to obtain match funding from BCBC to plug the gap.

Association secretary Kerry Marlowe, who was at the meeting, said he was delighted with the decision: "We are desperately short of changing rooms because the old pavilion has been condemned and we cannot use it."

"We have between 300 and 400 children there on Saturdays and Sundays as well as the adult clubs that come under our umbrella."

He stated that the town council had been hugely supportive over the years: "They are brilliant

## REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

and it was nice to see everyone supporting the proposal unanimously. Without that money we could not go ahead."

Mr Marlowe explained that providing the pavilion was the last part of the jigsaw.

"The site is looking much better. We have developed the football pitch and stand on the new land and we have installed the all weather Skansis pitch. We have also been working with the council's sports development officer to provide a range of sporting activities including outdoor training and fitness equipment for all ages."

He said that although they have obtained planning consent for the pavilion, amended plans will be submitted for a smaller building in keeping with the funding available.

When the matter was discussed at the town council, Coun David Newton Williams, chairman of the capital projects committee,

announced that members had recommended making this grant.

"It was felt that this is an organisation that has worked so hard for the youth of the town and they deserve all the support we can give them."

"This grant will enable them to go a good way towards getting this building. They already have £92,000 pledged."

Coun Norah Clarke said that while she had no problem with this in principle, she felt that the town council had to be careful in case it was setting a precedent.

"We must bear in mind that there are a lot of other clubs and groups in Porthcawl. Are we talking about giving them £30,000? Have you looked at this legally to see if we are allowed to do it?"

Coun David Newton Williams said that any applications from other organisations would be judged by the council on their merits at the time.

"We are trying to do things for the residents of

Porthcawl and for the town's youth, and this is one way to help them."

Coun Chris Smart said he was delighted at the recommendation to make the payment.

"These people work very hard for the youth of the town," he said. "We have supported other groups like the centre at Griffin Park and we are spending money on a skateboard park, but we must look at the entire town and all sections. Everything will be treated on its merits and we do our best."

"This is a very worthy cause that will benefit the youth of the whole town," he added.

Conservative leader David Deere "very conscious" of the tremendous work done by this organisation. He was not worried about setting a precedent and other organisations could always approach the council for help if they had a suitable project.

Coun John Bunker said talk of other organisations coming forward was hypothetical and he welcomed the decision. He said that the capital projects committee should meet the PAA to finalise details of the scheme.

Coun Gerald Davies was "delighted" with the recommendation and said that the Town Council had always supported the scheme for Lock's Lane.

"It is tremendous that the council is able to support this number of youngsters and the volunteers."

The council voted unanimously to make the grant, subject to the clerk sorting out the legalities, and with conditions concerning how the grant is to be paid.

A fund raising race night is being staged by PAA at The Seagull pub at 7.30pm this Saturday, April 17.

Crime figures for Maesteg in March showed that there were four dwelling burglaries in the west ward, three in Caerau, one in Maesteg east and one in Llangynwyd.

The biggest category was theft, including shoplifting in Maesteg West which saw 17 incidents. There were nine other thefts in the valley plus six thefts of cars – four in Caerau.

Non-dwelling burglaries accounted for seven crimes and criminal damage saw 24 reported incidents. There were also eight assaults.

In total, there were 103 crimes and 74 incidents of anti-social behaviour – 35 of these in Caerau.

Insp Evans stated that the thefts in the west ward included eight of shoplifting from shops in town, including Tesco, which is in the west ward.

Criminal damage in Caerau showed no pattern and incidents were sporadic.

## Police update for Maesteg council

A second speed camera has been purchased for use in Maesteg, Insp Steve Evans told Maesteg Town Council. He said that funding had been secured from the Community Safety Partnership.

A new PCSO has been appointed for Llangynwyd. Arabella Rees is currently serving a month's probation in Aberkenfig but would start in Maesteg in May.

A DAY-TIME operation was run by police in the forestry at Caerau along with the Fire Service and Forestry staff.

Insp Evans said that the operation was aimed at motorcycle annoyance and off-road bikers who use the forestry. Four warnings were given to bikers who were stopped.

Another was planned with the fire service, because of the number of grass fires which took place recently. He said that rain had made it more difficult for fires to be started lately but there was still plenty going on in the forestry that police knew nothing about.

Additional police patrols took place in Maesteg with money made available

# Town YMCA puts in a bid for £350,000 Assembly funding

by JAYNE ISAAC

**A**BID for £350,000 funding has been submitted this week to the Welsh Assembly Government by Porthcawl YMCA.

The organisation is seeking the cash to pay for ambitious redevelopment plans for its base in John Street.

It moved into the premises exactly 100 years ago last week, having been set up two years earlier.

The scheme is expected to cost about £400,000 in total, with the organisation funding the remaining £50,000 itself if the grant is approved.

The scheme would see the building become a community hub and would cement its role as providing a focal point in town for activities for all ages and for many different groups.

President John Berry said that the planning application has gone through so it was a matter now of securing the funding.

The plans would see the rear two thirds of the building knocked down and rebuilt. Most of the building is two-storey, although the original part right on John Street

has three storeys and the top floor will continue to be a pottery and craft workshop.

There will be 25 per cent more space in the new building as it will incorporate a central courtyard.

The front foyer will remain but the coffee bar will be moved to a new meeting room upstairs. The snooker room will disappear to be replaced by other facilities.

The ground floor will include a large games area for young people with other meeting rooms suitable for organisations using the building located upstairs.

The design enables maximum flexibility in what uses different parts of the building can be put to.

The scheme includes provision of new toilets, a new staircase and a lift and it will have full disabled access.

The YMCA is used every week by people of all ages attending activities put on by the organisation itself including after-school clubs and junior and youth activities plus pottery classes and other activities aimed at older people.

Outside organisations also use it as a venue for their own activities.

Mr Berry, who came to Porthcawl 27 years

ago as a worker for the YMCA and is now a volunteer, stated that a special building committee chaired by the Rev Colin Richards was masterminding the project. BAVO had provided help with applying for the funding.

The application has been supported by 30 letters from various organisations and about 250 people have also signed a statement of support.

Porthcawl Mayor Rosemary Deeray was present at a launch of the scheme which was

attended by many organisations and individuals.

"The YMCA has served Porthcawl well through two world wars and through good times and bad," said Mr Berry. "People tell us that we are the focal point in town for many social events and activities and we have adapted over the years to changing circumstances."

"I hope that this new building will be the start of a new era which will enable us to meet whatever challenges lie ahead," he concluded.

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# 6th RHS spring show is back on Cooper's Field

THE sixth annual Royal Horticultural Society show returns to the surroundings of Cardiff Castle on April 16-18.

It features show gardens created by top Welsh horticultural talent, the popular schools' wheelbarrow competition, talks and

demonstrations, expert advice and numerous plants and accessories for sale.

There is also entertainment with nature trails, street entertainers and live music plus a craft village and a taste of Welsh produce in the Cafe quarter.

Among the show gardens on Cooper's Field is 'Cardiff':

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 613.

• £2000: 365330.

• The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not claimed this week.

• £10: 432259;

441414; 828403;

608996; 752224;

799545; 526750;

220956; 693548;

879509; 382696;

111647; 328559;

781275; 228927;

461853; 167409;

242356; 312053;

412065; 488224.

• £5: 652461;

324197; 483082;

844999; 457639;

209159; 585663;

724590; 784459;

807938; 382796;

617905; 879185;

168392; 425010;

307442; 779180;

635877; 454815;

862035; 460114; 204604; 126570; 117219; 515722;

211562; 326524; 845814; 520843; 826452;

209065; 698158;

489864; 569660;

656912; 617919; 435611;

147900; 823897;

382105; 545813;

427953; 443721;

482585; 662429;

171625; 699288;

580047; 327026;

748998; 458453;

307772; 163713;

328559; 596837;

352068; 547509;

645612; 635325;

312053; 371415.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, contact 020 7649 1885 or [www.rhs.or.uk/cardiff](http://www.rhs.or.uk/cardiff)

email your local news reports to [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk) or write to us at the address on page 2.

## FAMILY SOLICITOR RETURNS TO HER WELSH ROOTS

SOUTH WALES-BASED family law specialist Kathryn McTaggart has experienced some life changes of her own in recent weeks.

As well as a new husband, a stepson and a move back across the Severn Bridge, she has taken a position with 'virtual' law firm Woolley & Co, a specialist family law firm with 19 lawyers based throughout the country.

Throughout her career, Kathryn has worked in London and the South East dealing with divorce and separation issues, as well as related financial matters. She has achieved success in a number of High Court cases involving complex and cutting edge children issues. Kathryn's own personal life has given her a perfect insight into the changing face of modern families and the potential challenges they face.

Kathryn is based just outside of Pontyclun, close to the Vale of Glamorgan and ideally situated in the ever expanding Cardiff commuter belt. Her links with the area go right back to her childhood and she has always maintained a strong and expanding network of family, friends and contacts here in Wales.

Kathryn trained as a collaborative



lawyer, committing to the resolution of disputes without Court proceedings where possible and has worked overseas as a family mediator (as well as running a theatre company in her spare time!). She is very much looking forward to using her skills and knowledge working with her local community.

Unlike other lawyers Kathryn works flexible hours and is happy to meet clients wherever suits them (at their place of work or even in a relaxed coffee shop!) and, if preferred, do the majority of work by telephone and email. Kathryn is committed to being up front and transparent with clients, and Woolley & Co offer fixed fees so clients can budget with no nasty surprises.

Kathryn is committed to providing a family law service that acknowledges the trauma of separation whilst remaining forward looking. She is committed to preserving dignity and humour in the worst of situations. Unafraid to be firm, she has first hand knowledge that people often have to continue their relationships long after separation. Believing the proof of the pudding is always in the eating, Kathryn is proud to display her client testimonials on the Woolley & Co website - [www.family-lawfirm.co.uk](http://www.family-lawfirm.co.uk)

If you want advice on divorce or relationship breakdown, or if you are about to enter a new relationship and want to protect your assets take advantage of Kathryn's free half hour initial consultation.

Call on 0845 680 2507 (local rate) or email [Kathryn.McTaggart@family-lawfirm.co.uk](mailto:Kathryn.McTaggart@family-lawfirm.co.uk)

(Woolley & Co is a member of the Law Society and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, registration number is 223060)

## Maesteg Council NEWS IN BRIEF

MAESTEG Town Council is to support a diversion of footpath 23, which runs through the farmyard of Cwrt y Mwnws Farm.

The diversion has been agreed with the farmer. Coun Keith Edwards said that there had been problems when people had walked through the farmyard and he said a diversion would be the best way forward.

Anyone who has used the steps leading from Church Street (Llynfi Lane) to Commercial Street, which runs alongside the old Family Value shop, is asked to sign a form to state that these steps have been in use as a public right of way for many years.

The Town Council is seeking to register the steps as a public right of way because of a need to ensure that they are cleaned and maintained in future.

Forms are available in the council offices in Talbot Street.

A grant of £200 is to be made by Maesteg Town Council to the Friends of Plasnewydd School, which wants to erect a sun canopy for inflation.

MAESTEG Town Council is to back the campaign to keep a 24-hour air-sea rescue helicopter based at RAF Chivenor. The council had an

the infants' yard to protect the children from the sun. This is likely to cost more than £4,000.

A £200 grant is to be made by Maesteg Town Council towards a kilimanjaro being undertaken by Philip Lathan to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Charity in memory of Ieuan Dare of Caerau.

A grant of £100 is being given by Maesteg Town Council to Chris Owen of 18,

Pondmawr, who has been selected for the Welsh Warriors Squad tour of Colorado organised by Rugby World next month.

Coun Phil John of Caerau will be installed as Mayor of Maesteg at the annual meeting in May. Coun Gareth Howells of Nantyffyllon is next in line to be deputy mayor.

A grant of £2,060 is to be made to Maesteg Citizens Advice Bureau by Maesteg Town Council – the usual £2,000 grant plus three per cent index linking for inflation.

It costs between £200 and £250 to provide each extra bin, and they have a life expectancy of 12 to 15 years.

The borough has asked town and community councils to consult with residents to see if

## More grit bins call by BCBC

TOWN and community councils throughout Bridgend county borough are being asked to consider buying extra grit bins for their areas, following the recent winter weather.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has told the councils that it has been inundated with requests for extra bins, but its budget only allows it to buy 30 replacement or additional bins each year.

It maintains a network of 300 grit bins in the borough, which were replenished four times during the winter, using 4,000 tonnes of salt.

One community council has agreed to pay for some extra bins and a similar partnership is now being offered to all town and community councils.

It costs between £200 and £250 to provide each extra bin, and they have a life expectancy of 12 to 15 years.

The borough has asked town and community councils to consult with residents to see if

extra bins are needed and residents nearby who where they should go.

When the matter was discussed at Maesteg Town Council, Coun Ross Thomas said that living in the vicinity, there will be a problem getting the grit from the bin onto the roads.

Coun Phil John said that many residents were willing to go and do this when there was snow and ice around.

"If there are people in every street who are willing to help, that's the way forward."

Coun Ian Jones had received a number of complaints from residents of Maesteg Parc that the gritters did not go their streets. The buses did not run and people could not get their cars out because of the snow.

It was agreed to get information about where new bins are being placed by BCBC and also check where there is a need for them in the town before taking a decision to buy any extra ones.

## 'Repair car park surface at Maesteg'

ACALL is to be made for the surface of the top deck of the Llynfi Road car park in Maesteg to be repaired.

Coun Terry Mizen said that the council should also enquire about what was happening to the fenced-off area in the underground section, which has been fenced off for years and is in a dreadful condition.

Coun Bill May said that the owners would not agree to re-open this section for parking as it was beneath the shops.

Coun Keith Edwards confirmed that they see it as a fire risk and said that this matter had already been taken up with Rhianon Kingsley, the town centre manager, as a point of action. She is pursuing it at the moment.

The council gets no income from the car park which has free parking. The borough council will be asked to act on the other matters.

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Both Stuart, who is old enough to know better, and Tom are also skilled BMX riders and can give knowledgeable advice on the best type of BMX bike to buy and how to ride it.

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### HOW BRIDGEND'S TRADERS KEEP TRADITIONS ALIVE

# Not in town centre yet not out of town...but shops (and shoppers) know their place!

*This week, The GEM takes a look at one of Bridgend's best known shopping areas, from Nolton Street and on to Ewenny Road. The area has been a hub of retail activity for more than 100 years – and a home to many of Bridgend's historic family businesses. Do those traditions still live on in the present day? The answer from traders and local residents alike is a very firm Yes!*

**T**HERE IS plenty of discussion these days about the retail trade, particularly in light of an economic situation that has seen consumers having to tighten their belt.

Questions like –  
What are the latest shopping trends?

Are sales in the high street up or down?

Are the supermarkets too powerful?

Not too mention an old favourite, the

never-ending arguments about the relative merits of shopping in the town centre or in 'out of town' retail parks.

So, traders who are situated in that 'in between' area between the town centre and out of town could easily start to feel overlooked – unless they have built up a reputation for exceptional personal service.

One such area that fits this bill is the stretch of Nolton Street that heads south

towards the Brynteg

Comprehensive School, before becoming Ewenny Road.

It may be only about 600 yards long, with an interesting offshoot that is Five Bells Road – but over the years it has been a fine breeding ground for new, young, imaginative businesses.

It is still true today, although someone driving through at night might draw the mistaken conclusion that it is dominated by takeaways.

In fact, the shops along the street offer a

fine mix of retail options – from antiques to home furnishings, from jewellery to fashion, and from cycles to groceries.

Scattered around the area are service businesses, including health and beauty, hairdressing, dentistry and herbal medicine.

And when it comes to food, the choice is impressively wide – from delicatessens to evening dining, and from breakfast to a fine choice of takeaways.

Competition between these outlets, of course, keeps prices keen and value for money high.

And competition is not the only factor that means areas such as Nolton Street/ Ewenny Road offer such good value for money.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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# APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street area profile

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Hidden delights take shoppers by surprise

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

The obvious advantage of trading in an 'in between' area is that shop rents are not as high, so the savings can be passed on to the customer.

Also, lower rents and rates mean that it is easier to start up a new business – one perhaps where the proprietor has a bright idea, but needs to start small and allow the fledgling business to grow.

In New York, they talk about 'Broadway' and 'off Broadway'. Broadway is where you find the

blockbuster shows with big casts and high costs.

Along 'off Broadway', you will find shows with a new idea, or an original plot. Something that will turn out to be big in future years.

As is the case here, if a business idea is really on the button, it tends to become a springboard for similar outlets.

That successful idea might move on – to be replaced by another budding entrepreneur with a dream.

However, this unique area of Bridgend also features

a sizeable number of businesses that have found their niche, have been established for quite some time, and have a solid base of loyal customers.

One thing that should never be under-estimated is that businesses in this part of Bridgend, in the main, are owner-occupied, giving a level of personal service that you will rarely find in an identikit chain store.

They are clear proof that there is no substitute for having a personal stake in a business when it comes to taking care

of your customers! Nolton Street, Ewenny Road and Five Bells Road might, when you are driving to catch the train, or commuting to work, be an area that you have paid little attention to in the past.

However, take a little trouble and shoppers will find that there is far more there than meets the eye!

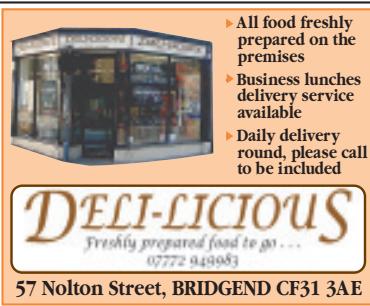
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ABOVE: MPN Windows is a business that is based in Ewenny Road.



ABOVE: Feeling peckish? Then pop into Deli-licious for a wide range of snacks and drinks.



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ABOVE:  
Fashion ideas at the Pink Butterfly.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Post Office apology for poor service

POST OFFICE customer care has apologised to Maesteg Town Council for the poor service provided at the town post office.

After complaints were made, the branch manager was contacted and he said that they had run short of cash on two occasions, which was outside his control.

An extra staff member has now joined the branch to reduce queuing times and he has given an assurance that customers are now receiving the level of service they expect.

Ogmore MP Huw Irranca Davies told the town council that the post office was suffering increased pressure due to the closure of the three sub post offices in the town. He is looking into the situation and will report back.

Ogmore AM Janice Gregory has also contacted Royal Mail's Senior Welsh Affairs manager to express her concerns at the complaints raised about the post office in Maesteg.

### Police hunt creepers in Caerau

POLICE have been investigating a spate of creeper burglaries in Caerau.

Insp Steve Evans told Maesteg Town Council that these took place at night when thieves had gone around trying doors and if they found one unlocked, entering the premises.

"We have cracked this particular spate but I would warn people to keep their doors locked," he said.

"They are opportunists who find an unlocked door and they are in and out very quickly, taking what they can. They are after things like laptops, cameras and cash."

"They also try car doors and if they find one unlocked, they go in and steal the sat-nav or anything left in the car."

He said that there had also been some burglaries in Maesteg West which are being investigated.

Time served solutions for today's challenges...

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## AS LEASE COMES TO AN END... Opinions split over move to new offices

A disagreement between the ruling Conservative group and the Liberal Democrats about the possible purchase of the council offices came to the surface at the last Porthcawl Town Council meeting.

The council's lease on the building in Victoria Avenue, which is owned by Bridgend County Borough Council, has come to an end and the town council is considering whether or not to negotiate with BCBC about buying the property.

The Capital Projects Committee recommended instructing Watts and Morgan to carry out a valuation of the building at a cost of £300.

They also recommended that the price of having a structural survey be obtained.

However, Coun Gerald Davies said he was totally opposed to the council considering the purchase of the building any further and he did not want council taxpayers' money spent on anything connected with it.

"I feel very strongly on this and I have never been in favour," he said.

"I would move that we do not spend this

money."

This was seconded by Coun Norah Clarke.

Coun David Newton Williams, who chairs the capital projects committee, said that the council's lease had expired and although they would get a further lease, the amount of rent required would probably be increased.

would be well over £100,000. I cannot see how the people of Porthcawl would benefit from us buying this property," she added.

Coun Chris Smart was not sure if it was the right thing, but a decision was made some time ago to look at the possibility.

"That minute was passed. We must find out the approximate cost of the building but we have taken no decision to buy. Lots of steps have to be taken before we get that far."

Coun David Newton Williams added that a valuation would be needed in order to assess any lease with the borough council.

However, Coun Gerald Davies said that there were so many ifs and buts, that the council should not spend taxpayers' money to purchase the building at that location.

"Our total budget is £150,000 and we should concentrate our money on providing services," he added.

A recorded vote took place, with 10 votes in favour of having the valuation and structural survey and three against, with one abstention.

JAYNE ISAAC

She stated that the asking price of the building

## War on drugs might save the Sunday lunch

LEGS of lamb are the most common items stolen by shoplifters – that fascinating snippet of information was given to Maesteg Town Council by sector commander Insp Steve Evans.

He told councillors that drugs were often the reason why people went out shoplifting.

"Drug taking is linked to crime and our former commander Supt Tim Jones believed that," he said.

"A lot of legs of lamb get stolen and then they get sold in pubs very easily. Some of this theft is to fund the drug habits of certain individuals."

"Shoplifting is a very easy crime to commit and there's less impact on the victims because they are big commercial stores. The criminals also know that the penal-

ty will be less than if they break into a car."

He said that a lot of small-time crime like theft from vehicles was linked to drugs.

"We have had a lot of activity with our drugs team in the community and our neighbourhood policing teams," he said.

"The last operation we had was last week when we found heroin. It's an on-going battle. I am not saying we will win this in 12 months because of the bigger social picture. It does affect the behaviour of individuals in an adverse way."

He explained that people had started buying drugs on the internet which was very difficult to stop because the drugs were posted to them in a package.

He added that people would change their drug habits, depending on the price and availability of drugs.

## TV's Justina's delight at success of charity ride



ABOVE: Justina praised William and Rachel Pugh from Llangan, and Rachel is pictured (centre) with her children Tom and Henry.

ITV newsreader Justina Simpson was delighted last Sunday at the success of her charity beach canter in Ogmore-by-Sea.

However, she was keen to thank some friends who had played a big part in making the event go so well, including the Pugh family from Llangan.

For a full report and pictures of the event, see page 22.



ABOVE: Justina riding Topper along the beach.



ABOVE: Henry Pugh on Barney Rubble.

You can now access your copy of *The Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM* online - log onto [www.bridgend-today.co.uk](http://www.bridgend-today.co.uk) or [www.porthcawl-today.co.uk](http://www.porthcawl-today.co.uk)

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**NEWS FROM THE  
PENARTH  
COMPUTER CLUB**

## New law could change way we use computers

CAN anyone read your mind? New legislation seems to think so.

The Digital Economy Bill was given its Third Reading by the House of Commons in the "Wash Up" on April 7.

The Wash Up is the name given to the parliamentary scurry of horse-trading to complete the progress of bills into law between the announcement of an election and the actual cessation of parliamentary business. J

The Bill is now complete, except for Royal Assent to pass it into law.

It covers a range of matters to do with the digital economy. You might agree with some measures, but they have all been passed, in spite of many potential problems that were pointed out in the meagre two hours allowed for the debate.

It is notable that many proposals for improvement were dropped under pressure of time. There is a vague undertaking to look at them further in the new parliament, but that will be after it has become law.

Much of the time was spent on the question of copyright.

Certainly there is a problem with the stealing (for that is what it is) of intellectual property (*musical composition being the most common*).

Under our present copyright system, the composer or author owns the copyright and they are going to be deprived of royalties if their work is pirated.

The existing law allows for redress, but is ineffective if the copyright owner has to sue each individual for damages for infringement.

It is essentially unenforceable at that level.

## News from the Bovertown WI

AFTER the usual business, members were treated to a very interesting talk and demonstration on Clarins makeup, by Val from Lloyds' Chemist in Cowbridge.

She gave a brief resumé of how it started and the importance of cleansing before making up, stressing that makeup is fun and really does improve the feeling of well-being!

### EMAIL US!

WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at:

[ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk)

She didn't suggest she could make people look younger, but by using subtle make-up, especially on the eyes, they can look much livelier!

Liz Lewis gave the vote of thanks and also won the competition for the best spring bloom. Wendy Hart won the raffle.

The next meeting is 'Resolutions' and is on May 13.

New members and visitors are always welcome.



# OUT of TOWN FEATURE

Pontyclun, Talbot Green & Neighbouring Areas



## Small town shops that are the beating heart of a community

**O**NE major impact of the recession has been to change people's shopping habits.

Lots of families are now choosing to shop locally and avoid the temptation of aisle upon aisle of ready meals and other expensive food stuffs at a time when they are having to watch their budgets.

It's at times like these that small town centres like Pontyclun and Talbot Green really

come into their own. Here, shoppers have a choice of good quality produce from butchers, greengrocers, bakeries, delicatessens and the like, without encountering the pile-em-high mentality of many supermarkets which dazzle and bemuse shoppers with so much choice that it's often impossible to tell if something is actually a bargain.

Is the three-for-the-price-of-two offer really a bargain, if you end up throwing away half of the food because you

cannot eat it all in time? It may have been cheaper just to buy the amount you need and can actually eat. That's where small shops win out. In a greengrocer's you can buy one or two apples, three or four tomatoes – in fact, any quantity you like. Nothing is pre packed and pre-weighed.

At the local butcher's, you can get a single chop and a few rashers of bacon – the right amount for you.

And in these days of increasing consciousness about food waste and its consequences on the environment in terms of landfill use, that's an important consideration.

As is food miles and carbon footprints – although 10 years ago nobody had heard of either! It was just sec-

ond nature then to buy foods that were locally produced.

It is the supermarkets who have introduced us to out-of-season fruit and vegetables flown thousands of miles from places like Chile and South Africa.

Far better to do what our ancestors did and eat foods in season that come from the locality.

And it's not just food that small towns can offer – in the case of Pontyclun and Talbot Green, there is also a reasonable choice of other shops catering for people's needs.

There are shops in the two towns that sell clothing, household goods, gifts, flowers and there are chemists where you can get your toiletries and much more besides. There are also many services available.

The other point about small towns is the better service you get from people who often own their shops, and who are keen to please and quick to respond to



**LEFT:**  
*Pontyclun offers an impressive range of shops for the discerning shopper.*



*ABOVE: Talbot Green – behind its quiet exterior is a deceptively lively business community.*



*ABOVE: Pontyclun – where shoppers can get away from the large supermarket bustle to a friendly town with a village feel.*

local demand.

And there is also the satisfaction you get from supporting communities and keeping town centres vibrant.

The world – and Wales in particular – would be much poorer place if all our little towns lost their shops and people were reduced to shopping

only in supermarkets.

Community life would suffer because people would no longer see each other to catch up on the news.

*So, support our small towns in order to keep communities alive and to save yourself money in the process. It's a win-win situation!*

JAYNE ISAAC

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## A happy customer gives her local shop a testimonial

I WAS in Pontyclun the other day, and you should have seen butcher John Hughes's window.

It had pasties, pies and faggots – all beautifully displayed. I went in to purchase what I needed for the week, and there was a long fridge with all the raw meats to tickle the taste buds.

On the other side was another fridge with a

great selection of cooked meats. On top of the fridges were jars of whatever customers wanted in the way of mustards and relishes.

Everything was so clean and fresh, and with a personal service that is second to none!

Next time you are in Pontyclun, why not pop in and sample what John Hughes has got to offer. You won't be disappointed.

T Warner, Llanharry

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## OBITUARY: Former councillor Ralph Hughes of Nantymoel

### Council praise from all sides for former colleague

**FOLLOWING** the recent death of former councillor

**Ralph Hughes, Coun Mel Nott, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, chief executive Jo Farrar and Coun Cheryl Green issued this statement on behalf of the authority.**

Born in 1949, Ralph lived with his wife, Mary, in the Ogmore Valley community of Nantymoel.

A former clerk with the National Coal Board, he later became a qualified driving instructor. In 1995, Ralph stood for election as a county borough councillor. He represented the ward of Nantymoel until 2008.

As part of the Rainbow Alliance administration, Ralph served as a cabinet member for social services and housing under

the leadership of Coun Cheryl Green.

She said: "It was a privilege to work with a person of such integrity as Ralph. He possessed great dedication and was driven by a strong sense of social responsibility. Ralph really wanted to help improve the lives of local people.

"His intelligence, people skills and wonderful sense of humour will ensure that he will be remembered with great respect and affection.

"I will personally always be grateful for his support and loyalty, and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and best wishes are with his family and friends."

Coun Nott said: "I think I speak on behalf of all at Bridgend County Borough Council when I say that we are greatly saddened to have learned of the death of

Ralph Hughes. As both a community and county borough councillor, Ralph gave many years of service to the people of Nantymoel.

"He demonstrated great commitment to his role as cabinet member for social services and housing.

"Our thoughts now are with Ralph's wife Mary, his daughters, family and friends. We would like to extend to them our condolences at this very sad time."

Chief executive Jo Farrar said: "Ralph was greatly respected by the officers of Bridgend County Borough Council, many of whom worked closely alongside him in his capacity as a cabinet member, a ward member and as an older person's champion.

"Our thoughts are with his wife, Mary, and his family."

### Local man claims Maesteg has too many traffic lights

**A CALL** has been made by a Maesteg businessman to replace many of the traffic lights in Maesteg with mini-roundabouts.

Geoff Fahey, who runs the café inside the market, contacted Maesteg Town Council to say that residents are fed up with the delays caused by the new lights established at the Tesco entrance and also at

Crown Road. They are in addition to the lights at the junction with Talbot Street and Castle Street, and also those by Somerfield, plus the main set at the Commercial Street-Talbot Street junction.

He said that the queuing traffic held up at these sets of lights are increasing air pollution in the town and reducing air quality apart from the congestion aspect.

He told the council most people were of the

view that they could be replaced with roundabouts, which would enable traffic to move freely.

Coun Bill May recalled that Maesteg Town Council looked at this some years ago and employed their own highway expert to look at the junction by the old Plaza.

The report back stated that this site was not suitable for a mini-roundabout, and that there was not enough room for it.

Coun Lynn Beeble felt that the main objections to having roundabouts was the fact that children need somewhere to cross the road in safety with all traffic on stop and with a separate phase in the

### Council seeks public's views

**LOCAL** residents are being asked to give their views over supplementary planning guidance, which is set to extend the land-use policies of the Bridgend Unitary Development Plan.

A council spokesman stated that "Guidance has been prepared because increased demand for

housing and rising pupil numbers means that schools and other educational facilities in the county borough are having to accommodate more children.

As a result, Bridgend County Borough Council is taking steps to ensure that the learning needs of children and young people can continue to be met – and we want to know what YOU think about it, he said".

### Maesteg in brief

**THOSE** wishing to spend a penny at the new public toilets being provided at Maesteg Car park will have to fork out 20p.

That's the fee set by Maesteg Town Council which is providing the "Tardis" type toilet on land at the car park. It is having to pay either to buy or lease the unit and also for the water and sewer connections.

**FUNDING** has been granted by the Welsh Assembly Government for three of the four proposed safe routes to the new Maesteg Comprehensive School.

The routes approved are from Nantymoel and Cwrt y Mwnws to the school; from Crown Road to the school and from South Parade to the school. The last route from Cwmdu Street was not awarded funding. In all, funding of £562,000 has been approved.

**MONEY** has been approved to provide a safe route from Caerau Park estate to the new Caerau Primary School.

Coun Phil White said that members had worked hard to secure this funding, which he welcomed. The sum approved is £102,000.

### Waiting room plan for Maesteg bus station

**MAESTEG** Town Council is to press for an enclosed waiting room to be provided at the town bus station under the regeneration plans.

### Death in Bridgend

**DETECTIVES** in Bridgend have confirmed that they are investigating the death of a 19-year-old man.

A police spokesman said: "Three people, two women and one man, are helping officers with their enquiries.

"Police are not treating the death as suspicious and a file is being prepared for the coroner. The next of kin have been informed."

Coun Keith Edwards stated that it was possible for the opening up and closing of the waiting room to be added to the duties of the market manager when he opens and closes the market.

A separate unenclosed waiting area would also be provided for bus passengers waiting early in the morning or in the evening.

"We are in the 21st century and there must be some sort of protection from the weather for bus passengers.

"I am asking the council to support these proposals," he said.

*This was agreed.*

The bus station and market are due to be redeveloped and consultants have been drawing up plans and consulting residents before coming up with final proposals.

# It's the last chance to view history show on a town's cinema

**AN** exhibition on the history of the Theatre Royal has in Barry been extended until April 30.

Paul Sutton of the Save Our Cinema Association (SOCA), told The GEM:

"The exhibition is being held at Victoria Park's 'Room in the Park' and we have been delighted with the response of people – it's run has now been extended until April 30.

"We have received lots of comments in the visitors' book, with many people expressing their regret that the Theatre Royal closed."

The exhibition includes behind the scenes photographs, posters and press cuttings covering a period from 1910 to the present day. A wall has even been set aside to display chil-



ABOVE: The Theatre Royal exhibition will continue at Victoria Park's 'Room in the Park' until April 30.

dren's artwork inspired by a SOCA competition. Paul emphasised: "You don't have to be a cinema lover to find the exhibition interesting. For people who are interested in the history of Barry, it is worth a visit."

The cinema, and the Sunday evening, It was

packed. Another vivid

Theatre Royal memory is of going to a double bill which featured 633 Squadron and The Great Escape. We went in a

6pm and didn't get out

until 10.30pm!"

### STARTLING EVIDENCE THAT THROWS NEW LIGHT ON THE UNDERGROUND TUBE CRASH

#### UNDERSTANDING MOORGATE: by Anthony Bright

**mystery.** I therefore decided to scrutinise all the available evidence in an attempt to find an actual cause.

The result of this is

"...the cause of this accident lay entirely in the behaviour of Motorman Newson during the final minute before the accident occurred.

"Whether his behaviour was deliberate, or whether it was the result of a suddenly arising physical condition not revealed as a result of post-mortem examination, there is not sufficient evidence to establish – but I am satisfied that no part of the responsibility for the accident rests with any other person and that there was no fault or condition of the train, track, or signalling that in any way contributed to it".

An example is that there was nothing wrong with the train equipment, based on the evidence that Motorman Newson had prepared and brought into service the train that crashed.

If he had had any concerns, he would have reported them before bringing the train into service or, when in service, on the three trips he drove the train to Moorgate before the fatal trip.

Moreover, another motorman had driven the train on its first trip to Moorgate and found the train equipment, especially the two braking systems, to be working normally.

The withheld evidence suggests, however, that the train that Newson was driving was from an unofficial changeover train north to Drayton Park and, unknown to him, this

vious prank affecting the braking systems. The prank may even have caused Newson to suffer an epileptic seizure.

Evidence is usually withheld to distort the truth. Perhaps 'Understanding Moorgate' will lead to a different conclusion in a revised railway accident report on the tragedy.

\* The author of this article is a former tube driver on the London Underground.

### Heritage coalition has launched its new website

**THE** group set up to lobby for a Heritage Centre for the Vale launched its website last week so that the coalition of local historians can spread their message via the internet.

Spokesman Dr Jonathan Hicks said: "Owing to the hard work of coalition members Ade Pitman and Steve Williams, we now have a professionally-designed website.

"It is already attracting visits from people throughout Wales, and indeed across the world, who all share our interest in the history of this great county. It is yet another step in our mission to bring a purpose-

built building to the area which can tell the story of our ancestors."

The website address is: <http://glamorganheritage.org> or search for 'Glamorgan Heritage'.

### Care home rumours are denied

**B R I D G E N D** County Borough Council has denied rumours that the Hyfryd Residential Care home in Maesteg is to close.

A spokesman said that there were no plans to close Hyfrydol, which caters for elderly residents.



## Holton Road businesses give city shops a real run for their money

WITH well over 100 successful businesses operating in Holton Road, the busy Barry shopping area can claim to be an economic mainstay of the Vale.

John Lewis, who owns JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop, has strong ideas on what has enabled local concerns to weather the worst of the recession.

John has traded in

He told The GEM: "The reason that we have survived is because we have kept in touch with what our customers want, and listened to them!"

"Businesses that have failed to do so have suffered."

"Last April and May, when many shops were finding it hard, we weren't quiet and were still doing business."

John has traded in

the Bassett area of Holton Road for nine years, so he has seen a few ups and downs in the economy. "What we have noticed is that people are a little more careful with their money. We're a smaller business and tend to be more competitive than some bigger shops."

"We're getting more customers from Cardiff now because of the keener prices."

Another boost has been that Weston Square at the bottom of Holton Road is open to traffic from Cardiff Road after being closed for a number of months through the winter for work to prevent flooding.

John said the strength of the business was in its staff and a high standard of



customer service: He said: "All the staff have the technical knowledge required and know what they are talking about."

"Whenever people leave the shop they have the right thing, or we have pointed them in the right direction."

**ABOVE:**  
The refurbished town hall of Barry is a landmark focal point for the Holton Road area.

## A Crafty Look is definitely worth a visit

**A**CRAFTY LOOK is a friendly local family-run business, which was established almost a year ago in Thomson Street.

Since then, the business has grown to a point where new premises were needed to allow for further growth, so 19 Holton Road, Barry, was acquired.

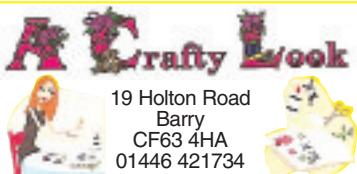
We opened our new premises in February and have been busy ever

since! We have expanded into the embroidery and personalisation market, with a number of repeat customers.

We cater for individual items, as well as hundreds of the same item if required.

We also print and embroider baby items, such as babygros, blankets and car sunshades.

Next time you are looking for something special, why not give us a try?



19 Holton Road  
Barry  
CF63 4HA  
01446 421734

Due to the success of the shop, we have moved from Thompson Street to bigger premises at:

**19 Holton Road, Barry**  
(Next to Domino's Pizza)

You can still buy all of the items that you have presently been able to buy, but we now stock a larger range of products

Why not call in and see for yourself the many items that we have to offer

**We are also the only embroidery company in Barry!!!**

Embroidered work wear a speciality

We can embroider onto almost all kinds of clothing, as well as print onto all sorts of other items, such as mugs, mouse mats, clocks, aprons, tea towels, sunshades etc.

One-offs to hundreds of items!

Please feel free to ask for a quote!

## Part exchange your pram?

**A**FTER five years, Ruckleys mother and baby shop is well established as a one-stop children's destination store, stocking everything for mother and baby from prams and pushchairs, to clothing, shoes, christening wear and school uniform.

Due to the economic climate and changes in customer purchases, Ruckleys are now launching their nearly-new part exchange department where, just like the motor industry, mums will be able to

browse a range of the latest must-have prams and pushchairs, including new, used and part exchange.

As always, all products come with a guarantee, giving you peace of mind, and with easy payment plan options, you'd be mad not to check them out!

For more information, call into the store, see the website, or ring the part exchange hotline on 07894 233330.

Ruckleys is open from 9.30am-5.30pm every day, and 11am-4pm Sundays; 98 Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan; telephone 01446 700006 [www.ruckleys.co.uk](http://www.ruckleys.co.uk)

For Mothers & Mothers to be...



- School Gingham dresses all colours £7.99
- Crocs now in
- Part exchange on prams
- Summer buggies - hurry!
- Selection of parasols and canopies

Spacious set over two floors, Ruckleys is the one stop children's destination store



• Brabantia • Stellar • Horwood • Judge Vista • Meyer • Circulon • Neworld •

## 1st Choice APPLIANCE CENTRE

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[www.1stchoicetrade.co.uk](http://www.1stchoicetrade.co.uk)

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NEXT DAY  
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SERVICE**

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Sunday  
10.00am - 4.00pm

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Beko • Range Master • Leisure • Creda • White Knight • Stoves • Candy •

"We sell a huge range of brand new and factory refurbished appliances to fit all pockets, from credit crunching budget appliances to top of the range models."



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# HOLTON ROAD IS HOTTING UP

## Plan ahead with Passmores on 'Lasting Plan of Attorney'



PASSMORES

MAKE AN  
LPA NOW

- Can you afford not to?

Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.

For more information please call:  
Carli Evans on 01446 721000  
or by email ce@passmores.com

SOLICITORS  
FOR THE ELDERLY21 Tynwydd Road,  
Barry, CF62 8HB

## HQ2 offer you the very best



ABOVE:  
The friendly team at HQ2 The Salon look forward to seeing you.

**H**Q2 The Salon, situated on Holton Road, is Barry's only 4-star salon awarded by The Good Salon Guide.

HQ2 pride themselves on quality, using only the best products and services.

All staff are trained to level-3 qualification and are regularly updated on new techniques and products.

**HQ<sup>2</sup> The Salon**  
★★★ 4-Star Salon  
Specialising in Balmain Hair Extensions, Colouring and Opti Smooth Chemical Hair Straightening.  
**Tel: 01446 400102**  
36 Holton Road, Barry  
(Look for the blue canopy)

**L**AWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign – to encourage all people to plan ahead and avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009. A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enables a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity

to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority.

This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans, of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements, can contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000, or by email at ce@passmores.com



ABOVE:  
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**TL Computer Systems (Wales) Ltd**  
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**40 Holton Road, Barry**  
**Tel: (01446) 747702 Fax: (01446) 744699**  
**www.tlsystems.co.uk**  
**email: mail@tlsystems.co.uk**

## Bodywise offers latest in beauty treatments

**B**ODYWISE was established more than 15 years ago and offers a wide range of beauty treatments in a relaxing, modern salon.

The salon provides a totally tranquil haven – essential for the complete relaxation of holistic therapies and facial treatments.

Jackie Howells and the team of therapists and salon aides research the beauty industry to find the latest and most up-to-date treatments and equipment to continuously introduce new beauty treatments.

Bodywise has gained the 'Investors in People'

award. Jackie provides the best working conditions and maximum training opportunities for all her staff, which she feels are important for job satisfaction for the staff – which will ensure a first class service for customers.

Bodywise uses and sells the first class skincare Darphin by Estee Lauder, Creative Nail Design products and varnishes, China Glaze Varnishes, California Tan sunless tanning, Amphora Aromatherapy Oils and Australian Organics body and face products.

Bodywise frequently provides special offers on other treatments and products – so look out for regular promotions.

## Bodywise Beauty Salon

We offer a full range of beauty treatments to pamper and beautify you...

- California Tan Spray Tanning
- Darphin specialised facials
- Creative nail extensions
- Arasys inch loss treatment
- Holistic therapies
- Make-up/Bridal packages
- Waxing and more

54 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY Tel. 01446 722211  
www.bodywisebeauty.co.uk

**Paul Gentile's expert Troll kits advice**

**D**ON'T miss Sunday, April 18, when customers will be viewing the new limited edition Troll kits at Paul Gentile, The Capitol Centre, Cardiff.

The eye-catching sweet floral collection kits are available in two distinctive colourways, decorative pinks and vivid, vibrant blues.

The beads are individually decorated and blend beautifully together to create an irresistible combination.

There are also the new dazzling delicate hanging Tassel Beads – beautiful beads inspired by the delightful colours and patterns of a garden blooming in spring!

A spokesman said: "Join us for light refreshments, a free raffle and expert advice on your trolls."

## Paul Gentile Jewellers

Barry, Cardiff & Newport



3 Commercial Street, Newport NP9 1HE  
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16 The Capitol, Queen St, Cardiff CF10 2HQ  
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Tynewydd Road, Barry CF62 8HB  
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[www.paulgentilejewellers.com](http://www.paulgentilejewellers.com)  
E-Mail: sales@paulgentilejewellers.com

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**255/257 Holton Road, Barry  
01446 732617**

Don't forget to visit our new shop!  
Barry Pet Store  
101 High Street, Barry  
Tel. 01446 734040

# Drew Barrymore's directorial debut is Whip sharp, funny and is hugely entertaining

**WHILE** Hollywood seems to excel in stories of performers plumbing the depths before reaching the highs, there are very few whose career, and indeed life, trajectory has matched that of Drew Barrymore.

Having shone as Gert in *ET*, Barrymore proceeded to match bad career choices with drug and alcohol abuse.

Having got both her life and career back on track in the mid-90s, Barrymore has firmly established herself as one of the most influential women in cinema.

Having taken production credits on the likes of *Charlie's Angels*, *Donnie Darko* and *He's Just Not That Into You* and built up an acting résumé that balances mainstream choices with off-kilter material, it seemed a given that she would turn her attention to the director's chair, and her debut outing, *Whip It*, now hits screens.

Ellen Page plays Bliss Cavendar, a girl whose life in a small Texas town consists of beauty pageants and working at a local diner. When she finds a flyer advertising

a local roller derby event, she is mesmerised by what she sees, and decides to sign up for the Hurl Scouts team, featuring such players as Maggie Mayhem (Kristen Wiig), Smashley Simpson (Barrymore) and Rose Sparks (Eve).

However, with Bliss' mother (Marcia Gay Harden) so keen for her daughter to excel at the pageants, and her newfound love for roller-skates, Bliss must try and balance her new life and existing one...

While many of the stars of the past have taken their skills into the sphere of directing (with Clint Eastwood arguably the most prominent and successful), today's stars seem a touch more reticent to step behind the camera.

The likes of Cruise, Crowe and Smith have rarely discussed the thought, while Tom Hanks, whose directorial debut was released in 1996, has now only just got round to starting on his second.

Given Drew Barrymore's growing prominence as a producer, her move behind the camera was highly – whether she would be any good at it was a different matter entirely.

Fortunately for Barrymore, and anyone who goes to watch *Whip*

*It*, she proves to be rather adept at the directing lark, creating an enjoyable film high on sass and fizz yet with enough substance behind it to make for a more satisfying watch.

Barrymore has obviously absorbed the work of directors such as Jason Reitman, whose lo-fi aesthetic is clearly a huge influence on this film, yet Barrymore shows a dexterity which is more than the sum of her influences.

She deliberately keeps her direction low-key, but draws a great deal of comedy, pathos and excitement from that, handling the film's narrative needs with careful aplomb.

While the roller derby scenes bustle with hard-hitting action and excitement, Barrymore is more concerned with the importance of the story and the characters – even the most peripheral of characters are invested with time.

It is an auspicious debut that shows a keen talent in its earliest stages.

Of course, it does help when you are gifted a cast of such strength and versatility as the one assembled here – a cast that performs just how you would expect, with skill and style.

Ellen Page may be marking herself out as the alternative female lead of choice, but she shows a real confidence and lightness of touch, taking the character of Bliss and offering a performance that captures a character discovering themselves, coming from under the umbrella of their family and standing on their own two feet.

Page has enough charisma and wits to be a superb lead-in to the type.

## Rotary club will check out your blood pressure

LOCAL residents are being offered the chance to get their blood pressure checked for free on Rotary's 'Stroke and Health Awareness Day', this Saturday (April 17).

A Rotary mobile unit will be parked in Morrison's car park at Barry and blood pressure checks will be carried out by professional nurses between 10am-4pm.

Once the age of the quiz is established, it's planned to invite all the music fans who have attended over the years to a celebratory event.

Anyone with information, should telephone Brian on 01446 739133.

story and her turn is one of the many highlights on show, showcasing her ability for both comedy and for the dramatic.

Surrounding Page are a selection of performances that either reaffirm an actor's ability or showcase an up and coming performer.

In the former camp, the likes of Barrymore (whose more-or-less cameo turn is played for laughs), Daniel Stern, as Bliss' father, and Juliette Lewis, taking time out from being a rock star to play the Iceman to Page's Maverick in a role that works well, all put in strong shifts, bringing a pleasing degree of skill to their parts.

It is Marcia Gay Harden who is the standout from this crowd, the always-dependable actress lighting up the screen as Bliss' mother. Beneath the beauty pageant sheen lies a decency to do what is best for her family, and Harden really gets under the skin of a character that could easily have fallen into type.

In the 'up n' coming' section, Kristen Wiig shows she has the ability to break out from her recurring role on US TV's *Saturday Night Live* with a turn that is as much about humour as it is about being a sisterly shoulder for Bliss as she enters the world of roller derby.

Alia Shawkat (who a minority will remember from *Arrested Development*) does the best friend role to perfection, while a special mention should also go to Andrew Wilson, brother of Owen and Luke; were it not for the large amount of oestrogen on show, Wilson's Razor would come pretty much close to stealing

the show with his dry asides – yet as it is, he has to settle for being part of what is a superbly strong cast with nary a poor turn.

Shauna Cross' screenplay is adapted from her own book, and it shows the faith she has in the material to allow her story to flow so well.

While it plays like a typical underdog sports film, there is also the relationships between Bliss and various people around her which works on a whole other level, plus the typical 'coming of age' element.

It all adds up to a strongly feminine story, but one that is played as broadly as possible; it may be heavy on 'girl power', but its universal themes mean the film plays well regardless of gender.

If there are faults, then they are merely first-time wobbles; the story is played out slightly too long, starting to drag somewhat towards the end, while Barrymore's good taste in music may be present and correct, but there is a little too much emphasis on soundtracking every scene.

Not a huge issue when you have the likes of The Runaways, The Breeders and The Go! Team as the background, but there are points where you want what's on the screen to hold up by itself as opposed to what is on the soundtrack.

Despite that, *Whip It* is a hugely entertaining film, enjoyable to watch with a sharp, realistic script that works extremely well and bodes well for Drew Barrymore's behind-camera future.

VERDICT – A pleasing slice of celluloid. *Whip It* is an auspicious debut for Drew Barrymore, who shows a wonderful direction.

Coupled with a strong script and superb turns from the likes of Ellen Page, Marcia Gay Harden and Kristen Wiig, *Whip It* is a film

high on verve and excitement, yet with a storyline grounded in reality, makes for a compelling watch. Recommended.

## SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

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## FRONTLINE HEROES...

# Welsh Medics will be honoured in freedom ceremony

**TERRITORIAL ARMY** medics who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan are to be given the Freedom of the Vale of Glamorgan at a ceremony in King Square, Barry on Saturday (April 17) at 11.30am.

Cardiff-based 203 Welsh Field Hospital (Volunteers) is the only Territorial Army medical unit in Wales, and its personnel are all part-time volunteers.

Known as 'The Welsh Medics,' they recruit from across Wales, and the council has unanimously agreed to grant them the honour in recognition of their invaluable work in saving lives.

They recruit health-care professionals from all disciplines, for example, doctors, nurses, paramedics, radiographers, physios, biomedical scientists, dentists, dental nurses, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and health care support workers.

King Square, Barry, will be the venue for the ceremony on Saturday, 17 April, when Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams will present a special scroll to the unit's Commanding Officer, Col Kevin Davies.

Following the ceremony,

personnel in support of operations abroad during the Gulf wars, the Balkans and ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to continue its close bonds with the Regular Army medical services.

The Freedom, which is the highest tribute a county borough council can bestow, is a long-standing tradition whereby public recognition is given to individuals and/or organisations as an expression of the high esteem in which they are held both by the council in the area and its people.

In being given the honour in the Vale, the medics follow in the distinguished footsteps of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales), The Welsh Guards and The Royal Welsh.

They recruit health-care professionals from all disciplines, for example, doctors, nurses, paramedics, radiographers, physios, biomedical scientists, dentists, dental nurses, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and health care support workers.

Tracing its roots back to the First World War, the hospital is based in Cardiff, with detachments in Swansea, Crickhowell and Llandudno. In recent times, it has deployed

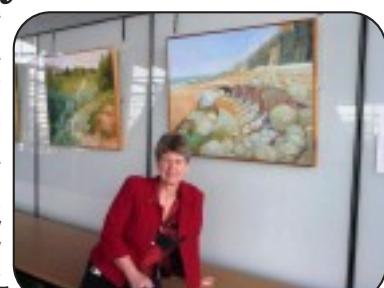
to the Barry Leisure

of some short delays during this period.

## Heritage Coast through the eye of an artist

**AN exhibition of artist Joan Baker's paintings has been on display at the Senedd and in the Pierhead Building, with a focus on the Heritage Coast.**

**Hosted by Jane Hutt AM, the exhibition continues in the Pierhead until the end of April and is "well worth a visit," she says.**



## Ladies choir in concert

**BARRY Ladies Choir present their annual spring concert at Crossway Methodist Church Hall, Court Road, Barry, on Saturday, April 24 at 7pm.**

The choir will be conducted by musical director Alice Jones, and accompanied by Emma Arscott.

Tickets are £5 (children half price) available from choir members; at the door, or telephone 01446 746495.

There will be refreshments and raffle. Proceeds are to fund the choir's twinning visit to Fécamp in June for a national festival.

## Bro Radio wins Assembly grant

**FRED JONES said: "These radio stations play a valuable role in reflecting the issues affecting people living in these communities. They also provide opportunities for residents to gain new skills and in some cases employment."**

"I'm very pleased to announce these grants and to congratulate the stations on the important role they play in their communities."

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk)

# Out and About with The GEM

## Colin's 50th birthday goal for Ty Hafan

**COLIN JONES** of Dinas Powys Rotary Club set himself a 50th birthday challenge – to cycle the length of Wales from Holyhead to Cardiff, in aid of Ty Hafan and Rotary Club charities.

To help Colin reach his charity target, a signed Ospreys rugby shirt was donated by Veolia Transport Cymru, where Colin is coach.

Landlady Sue Copner, of the Three Horse Shoes pub in Dinas Powys, agreed to purchase the shirt and donate £500 towards the target for the cycle ride.

Colin is seen (above) presenting the signed Ospreys shirt to Sue.

Anyone who would like to help Colin reach his target, can donate online at [www.justgiving.com/colin-jones0](http://www.justgiving.com/colin-jones0)



The Ospreys shirt is handed over.

### PACT meetings in the Vale...

**THE following PACT meetings are being held in the Vale next week:**

**LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, April 19, at 7pm.**

**LLANDOW PACT, Ewenny Village Hall, Wednesday, April 21, at 7pm.**

**COLWINSTON Cuppa With A Copper, The Sycamore Tree Public House, April 24, at 1pm.**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Clothes swap

LLANTWIT Transition are holding a clothes swap (bring to swap or buy) at the Old White Hart public house, Llantwit Major at 2pm on April 24.

#### 3 Peaks Challenge

A 3 Peaks charity challenge starts at 4am on Saturday, June 12 from Pen y Pass, Snowdonia, then on to Cadair Idris (also in Snowdonia) and Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

Taking part are five employees of Sinclair Finance and Leasing.

Proceeds from the challenge are in aid of the Ty Hafan hospice at Sully.

## Charity curry and quiz night

**THE Penarth Ladies Circle is holding a Curry and Quiz night on May 7 at 7.30pm in the Adventure Island play centre, Friars Road, Barry Island.**

Tickets are £5, with all proceeds going to the Headway charity. There will be a bar and raffle on the night, and a prize for the quiz winner! Teams welcome.

For tickets, contact Julie on 07966 172758 or email [jodie.evans@staubinnurseries.co.uk](mailto:jodie.evans@staubinnurseries.co.uk)

## Van man winner

**THE winner of our recent 'Who drives what' competition was Lisa Elliott of Barry, who won £20.**

Keep reading The GEM for more great competitions!

## Worcester trip for a good cause!

**THE Llantwit Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans have organised a fundraising trip to Worcester on Saturday, May 15.**

Tickets are £15 each, and details are available from Julie Robinson on 01446 796471. Proceeds, as always, will go to Bridgend Samaritans.

**NEW**

**SHADOWS CABARET BAR**  
**BARRY ISLAND OPENING NIGHT SATURDAY 17th APRIL**

#### Forthcoming Events

Saturday 17th April	<b>ABBA RIVAL - £14</b>
Saturday 1st May	<b>SHENTON DIXON LEGENDS OF SOUL - £14</b>
Saturday 15th May	<b>OASIN'S - £14</b>
Saturday 29th May	<b>MONI TIVONI as LIONEL RITCHIE - £10</b>
Saturday 12th June	<b>MULTI TRIBUTE DIVA SHOW - £10</b>
Saturday 26th June	<b>ATOMIC JONES - £10</b>
Saturday 10th July	<b>RAT IN THE KITCHEN - £14</b>
Saturday 17th July	<b>CERI DUPREE - £10</b>
Saturday 31st July	<b>IAN JONES as LEE EVANS - £10</b>

Please note that all the above prices include Chicken and Chips or Vegetarian option.

Party bookings welcome. Venue also available for private hire – ask at the bar for details.

For further details on the above call

**01446 721888**

or email [info@shadowscabaretbar.com](mailto:info@shadowscabaretbar.com)

## 'Walk on Wild Side' of the Vale

A 'WALK on the Wild Side' is a family walk with a difference, full of nature activities, for grown-ups and kids to discover and explore the secret trails of Porthkerry Country Park.

It takes place on May 16 and is part of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival.

Gareth Simpson of Valeways, said: "It is a

walk of two miles, along footpaths and woodland trails. Wellies will be necessary as some of the trails are likely to be muddy."

Booking essential. Visit [www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk](http://www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk) for the full programme and online booking.

Phone bookings and enquiries can be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000 (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

## Karen's painting wins the prize!

**PICTURED** is Karen Briscombe, who won the Sully Painting Group's annual modern art competition.

The wide variety of exhibits in the competition, will all be on show at the Sully painting exhibition, together with many other paintings in Jubilee Hall, Sully, on June 25-26.



**KAREN BRISCOMBE.**

*because of Slimming World life's never been so good!*

Jane from Halifax  
Read my story online at [www.slimmingworld.com](http://www.slimmingworld.com)

## DAY GROUPS

### WEDNESDAY

**Penarth - 9.30am & 11.45am**  
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square Linda 01446 761150

### THURSDAY

**Barry - 10.15am**  
Castelland Community Centre Belvedere Crescent Niki 01446 740394

### COWBRIDGE - 10.00am

**The Duke of Wellington High Street Lina 01656 890708**

### EVENING GROUPS

#### MONDAY

**Barry - 4.30 & 6.30pm**  
Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road and Llanover Street Lorraine 01446 407002

#### TUESDAY

**Penarth - 6.30pm**  
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church Elfed Road Niki 01446 740394

**Rhoose - 6.30pm**  
Celtic Way Community Centre Celtic Way Helen 01446 750738

#### TUESDAY

**Barry - 5.45pm**  
Market Street Social Club Upstairs Function Room Joanne 01446 404897

#### WEDNESDAY

**Dinas Powys - 6.30pm**  
The Cabin, by swimming pool Hebron Hall Lorraine 01446 407002

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# JUSTINA'S CHARITY OGMORE BEACH CANTER PROVES A HUGE SUCCESS!



**THE "amazing" success of a charity 'beach canter' last weekend at Ogmore-by-Sea looks likely to lead to it becoming an annual event.**

The day, organised by ITV newsreader Justina Simpson, attracted hundreds of horses and riders, and the posse set off along the beach towards Newton, pausing only to ford the River Ogmore – or sometimes use the stepping stones.

Money raised will go to a new diagnostic, treatment and consultation centre at Llandough Hospital that helps women with breast cancer.

Justina Simpson told The GEM: "The beach canter for breast cancer yesterday was an amazing success.

"We were truly astounded at how many people turned up. Even people who have arranged horse events for many years were shocked by the amount of riders.

"In total there were 207 horses, 150 people walking on foot and we raised more than £3,000 in just a few hours and we are still awaiting hundreds more in sponsorship."

She continued: "I would like to say a massive thanks to my fiancé Marcus Hagley, who helped me come up with the idea of this event.

"He has done everything, from designing the posters for the event to stewarding on the day and collecting money.

"However, we simply couldn't have done the event without William and Rachel Pugh from Llangan. William is

fantastic with horses and trains his own race horse.

"He gave me my beautiful horse and got me back in the saddle. He did everything from planning the route for the riders to organising the car parking."

"Every night after work he travelled around to more than 100 stables in the Vale handing out posters. He gave up so much of his time, and without him and his wife Rachel, we couldn't have put this event on."

Justina went on: "Massive thanks also to Rob from Ogmore Riding Centre, who donated half the money from the horses he hired to the charity and guided the riders safely across the beach.

"People of all ages and all capabilities took part. It really was quite a sight seeing more than 200 horses galloping along the beach in the sunshine."

"Steve from the Pelican also put on free food for all the hungry riders who came back to the pub after three hours of riding. He has been fantastic."

"My parents Sara and Paul Simpson also helped on the day, collecting money and stewarding."

"The sun was shining and everyone said what an amazing event it was. Lots of people thanked us for organising it, and as a result we are now going to make it an annual event."

*She added: "Thanks also to The GEM for publicising the event. I really believe your article last week attracted lots of people."*

**Photos by MANDY THOMAS  
(Available for purchase,  
telephone 07974 518347)  
These and other pictures of the  
event can be viewed on  
[www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk](http://www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)**



**ABOVE and BELOW:**  
Lots of youngsters were keen to  
get aboard their ponies for the  
charity event.



# Athletic Youth make sure of Millennium Stadium final date

**BRIDGEND ATHLETIC YOUTH** played Waunarlwydd at Gowerton in what was an important Ospreys League game.

After a great 39-7 win over Bonymaen last week the Athletic needed to win to ensure they could not be caught.

Waunarlwydd earned a penalty from some early forward pressure but failed to convert the chance.

The Athletic soon settled and pursued their normal high tempo game, with winger Lewis Harrhy getting plenty of passes – one of which he turned into a great try, converted by scrum half Tom Davies.

Shortly afterwards, inside centre Olly Olds crossed to increase the lead after some good driving play by the forwards. Davies converted.

Captain and flanker Stuart Edbrooke was setting a fine example, winning some great

turnovers, and centre James Olds followed his captain with some great turnovers of his own and this glut of possession enabled the Athletic to put relentless pressure on Waunarlwydd, with outside half Corey Butler directing play.

Then from a scrum five yards in front of the Waun posts, No 8 Sean Derrick picked up to put Tom Davies over for the simplest of tries, which he also converted.

Within minutes, the lead increased when a quick tap penalty taken on the half-way line was moved left and Olly Olds sold a fine dummy before unselfishly putting winger Owain Evans over for a try he probably could have scored himself.

With the half-time score 26-0, the result was now not in doubt. The Athletic struck immediately from the restart when the forwards regained the kick off. The ball ended up with Lewis Harrhy after some blistering handling for him to cross for his second try enabling him

to move further ahead as the side's top try scorer of the season.

With 20 minutes to go, the Athletic brought on their entire bench and Tom Parry got hold of the ball in his own 22 and ran powerfully, breaking several tackles, before handing on to Lewis Harrhy who raced over for his hat trick. Tom Davies converted.

The Waunarlwydd forwards gave a good account of themselves throughout but were thwarted by the clinical play and pace of the Athletic team.

A fine example of this was the final try when, after some more great handling, prop forward Aled Thomas sold a fine dummy and raced 30 yards to score. Davies completed the scoring with the conversion.

With just two games to go in the league, the Athletic are now firmly placed to represent the Ospreys in the regional play offs and can look forward to defending the title won last year at the Millennium Stadium.

## Athletic under-8s take festival title

**BRIDGEND Athletic under-8s travelled to enter the Tondu festival of mini rugby.**

On a glorious day, teams played four games in a pool league format.

### Game 1 – Tondu

The first game saw the Ath get off to a flying start with Tondu unable to break the strong Ath defence. Both sides played some great rugby, but it was the Ath who came out on top in the first half, scoring four tries from Morgan Bennett, Jack Pitts, Dewi Harding and Oliver Raynor.

The second half saw another good display in defence by both sides, and only one more try was scored. The Ath increased their lead, with Mason Edwards scoring late in the second half.

### Final score – Tondu

0 Ath 5 Game 2 – Pentyrch

The second game saw a strong Ath display and all the squad started to work as a team. The defence again was outstanding and it showed in the score, as the Ath took two good chances in the first half with Dewi Harding and Jack Pitts getting on the scoresheet.

The second half was much like the first, as Pentyrch tried to break the Ath defence on many occasions, but it was the Ath who took all their chances and scored three more tries in the second

half, with Morgan Bennett getting two and Dewi Harding finishing off the game where he started.

**Final score – Ath 5 Pentyrch 0.**  
Game 3 – Newport HSOSB

With all the squad warmed up, it was yet another display of fantastic teamwork and effort. Again the Ath's defence held firm and the Ath boys notched up six unanswered tries in the first half, with Mason Hughes, Dewi Harding and Oliver Raynor all getting two apiece.

Newport battled hard and played some good rugby in the second half and never gave up.

Mason Hughes added to the Ath scoresheet with two more tries, and with time almost up, the Ath defence was broken for the first time and

Newport scored a really good try, which pleased everyone.

Mason got one more for the Ath on the last play of the game but great credit to Newport, who never gave up until the final whistle.

**Final score – Ath 3 Newport HSOSB 1 Ath 9**

Game 4 – Briton Ferry

The last game of the day saw Ath play another good side and it was all resting on this game, with the winners taking the trophy.

The Ath started the stronger and took an early lead, with Morgan

Bennett taking a good pass to score the opener.

Both teams passed the ball well but it was the strong Ath defence that held firm again in the first half, holding out Briton Ferry and showing great determination.

It was the Ath who scored again before half-time, with Bobby Bromley crossing to double the Ath score.

The second half saw Briton Ferry throw everything at the Ath and what a fantastic game of rugby was played. Both sides were passing the ball around superbly, but it was the Ath who scored first with Mason Edwards taking a good pass to squeeze over in the corner.

Ferry came straight back and the Ath defence was broken for the second time after a strong run by Briton Ferry. With the last few minutes, both sides cancelled each other out with some great defence and on the final whistle, it was the Ath who came out on top.

Ferry got one more for the Ath on the last play of the game but great credit to Newport, who never gave up until the final whistle.

**Final score – Ath 3 Newport HSOSB 1 Ath 9**

Game 5 – Briton Ferry

The last game of the day saw Ath play another good side and it was all resting on this game, with the winners taking the trophy.

The Ath started the stronger and took an early lead, with Morgan

## PORTHCAWL PIP 'RAGS'

This Ospreys 'G' league game was always going to be a tough encounter for the young Bridgend Athletic second team against a seasoned and useful Porthcawl outfit.

Porthcawl grabbed the game by the scruff early on and crossed within minutes to take a seven-point lead.

Some fine scramble defence enabled the Athletic to keep out a rampant Porthcawl team, with Ben Clarke and Luke Wootton to the fore.

Then the Athletic struck back with a great try from a perfectly executed chip from scrum half Owain Evans which enabled captain Nathan Morozzi to cross in the corner. Corey Butler levelled the scores with a fine conversion.

Porthcawl generally had the better of the play and increased their lead with a converted try and a penalty to go into half-time leading 17-7.

When Ben Clarke crossed to increase the lead to 24-7, a rout looked possible but the Athletic rallied. Corey Butler nailed a penalty before speedy prop Aaron Shakeshaft crossed for a try, converted by Butler.

With just seven points in it, Porthcawl looked vulnerable for the first time but they managed to steady the ship with a try of their own before Shakeshaft grabbed his second. Both went unconverted.

The Athletic made one final effort to win the game but were penalized for holding the ball with the Porthcawl line at their mercy, and the referee blew his whistle to end a thoroughly entertaining game.

**Final score: Bridgend Athletic Youth 'Rags' 22 – Porthcawl Youth 29.**

PR

## CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest.

Email them to: [ggem@internet-today.co.uk](mailto:ggem@internet-today.co.uk) or post to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

# Police Youth get off to a flyer at Pencoed

**SOUTH WALES** ahead.  
Police Youth travelled to Pencoed and proved to be far too strong for the home side.

Within a few minutes, the Police found themselves 10-0 up with two tries from hooker Gareth Thomas and wing Dan Harris.

However, ill discipline cost the Police six points after two fantastic penalties from the Pencoed centre.

The Police got back to business and added a third try when influential No 8 Ashley Berrows forced his way over in the corner to put the Police 15-6 up. Pencoed added another well-taken penalty but that was to be their last points of the day.

The next points came when captain Lee Roderick went on a great solo run, breaking through several tackles to put the Police further ahead. Outside-half and birthday boy Craig Davies was now controlling the game and went on to score two great individual tries. Wing Dan Harris added another and further tries came from wing Jack Evans and second row Tyler Williams, with full-back Rosser adding three difficult conversions.

**PENCOED YOUTH** 9  
**SOUTH WALES POLICE YOUTH** 51



Another Mathew Jones charge.



Captain Lee Roderick weaves his way through Pencoed defence.

## BRIDGEND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

### Under-13s in thrilling draw against rivals Bryncethin

**Under-13s**  
**TONYREFAIL**  
**BRYNCETHIN**

22  
22

**BRYNCETHIN** and Tonyrefail under-13s produced a wonderful game for the watching spectators.

In great playing conditions, both teams played their part in running the ball at every opportunity and scoring some magnificent tries.

Tonyrefail took the game by the scruff from the starting whistle, scoring their first two tries inside 10 minutes. The cherry and whites looked to be losing confidence, but were buoyed following some words from coaches Gareth Richards and Alun Davies.

Bryncethin now began to compete in all facets of the game.

After Dan Lockyer scored their first try, Bryncethin really fought hard with Lockyer scoring another try from 40 metres, but in an end-to-end game, Ton scored again after some powerful forward approach play.

Bryncethin were very unlucky not to go into half-time five points up, after they had two tries disallowed, the first for foot in touch and the second for touching down behind the dead ball line.

The boys looked dejected at half-time, but were told emphatically that they were the better side. This helped kick them into life and they went on to score two second half tries to one.

The first came from a

fine performances were Ryan Blake and Emrys Hunnman. Man of the match: Iwan Veasey.

**BRYNCETHIN** UNDER-9s v **TONYREFAIL**

A PLEASANT spring morning saw Tonyrefail visit for what turned out to be a very entertaining encounter.

Captain for the day, Aaron Thomas, led from the front and was ably supported by Morgan Stephens, Luke Board and Jack Thomas.

The second half was end to end and Josh Napper scored early to give heart to the home team. Nanty hit back to score again, but once more the Bryncethin boys raised their game to allow Tobias Hunt to equalise.

Tonyrefail were always competitive and the scoring didn't reflect the part they played. Following more good work, Daniel Osarigie was put into space to sprint clear and touchdown. Tonyrefail hit straight back with a fine try of their own – however, it was left to Josh Napper to complete the scoring.

**BRYNCETHIN** UNDER-10s v **GARW**  
BRYNCETHIN under-10s travelled to Garw for another tough match.

In what was an excellent game between two evenly matched teams, there was plenty of entertainment.

Excellent attacking angles created space to allow tries for Dafydd Evans and Emrys Watkins. Plenty of solid defensive work was needed as The Garw matched their visitors.

Some good play from both Ryan Morgan and Ryan Lovell supported by Gethyn Napper, Morgan Tarr and Owen Hart meant that Bryncethin were always competitive.

Also showing up with

Jack Thomas and Davis Pilkington showing up well in the loose.

Following good work by the team, Daniel Osarigie scored a leveller for Bryncethin. This only served to spur the visitors on and they scored two more tries before the interval to lead 3-1.

The second half was end to end and Josh Napper scored early to give heart to the home team. Nanty hit back to score again, but once more the Bryncethin boys raised their game to allow Tobias Hunt to bring the score to 4-3.

With a draw a very real possibility, Bryncethin threw everything at their opponents, only for a breakaway try to secure the match for Nanty.

The coaches were proud of a stirring performance by the whole team against fresh opposition, however a special mention goes to both Keiran Dixon and Finlay Mullens for some outstanding defensive work.

**Squad:** Aaron Thomas (captain), Keiran Dixon, Morgan Stephens, Luke Board, Tobias Hunt, Rhys Davies, Daniel Osarigie and Josh Napper.

# Top Paralympian highlights sports opportunities

**TOP** table tennis player and Paralympian, Neil Robinson, recently visited Bridgend Designer Outlet to help highlight sports opportunities

for disabled people in Bridgend County Borough.

Organised by the arts and community development and active young people's departments, and supported by Bridgend Designer

Outlet, members of the public were invited to take part in workshops, play table tennis with a Paralympian and try adaptable cycling.

Over the years, retired Paralympian Neil has amassed several World

and European medals and has now channelled his skills, knowledge and passion into coaching.

He said: "I was delighted to be able to assist in the promotion of sport within the county borough. Bridgend has a rich history of producing successful athletes from a range of sports, and through the council's active young people's department there are opportunities for both able bodied and disabled people to get involved in sport."

Arts projects officer, Guy O'Donnell, said: "Thanks to Bridgend Designer Outlet and Neil's support, we were able to highlight the many sports opportunities available for disabled people within the borough, and promote the area's proud history in the Olympic and Paralympic Games."

For further information on sports opportunities for disabled people in Bridgend County Borough, call (01656) 815220 or email: [sportsdevelopment@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@bridgend.gov.uk).

SB

## Two wins on tour for Pencoed under-12s

**PENCOED** under-12s enjoyed another success, travelling at the weekend to play Exmouth and touring side Farnham.

The first game was against Exmouth and, even though Pencoed had to adopt to RFU continuum rules, the hosts could not match them.

First half tries by Callum Baker, Rhys Butler, Jack Pope, Luke Bevan and Sam Rowland-Jones gave Pencoed a 25-0 half time lead.

In the second half, Rhys Butler completed his hat-trick and there were other scores from

Luke Bevan, Callum Baker and Aaron Leyshon, giving the visitors a comfortable 50-0 win.

Farnham proved to be a much tougher proposition in the second game, taking an early lead. Pencoed responded with Luke Bevan crossing to level the scores, but Pencoed were struggling in the scrums, with Farnham playing an under-13 at the break.

The second half saw Pencoed run in four unanswered tries from Rhys Butler, Chris Carr (two) and Tom Morgan to earn themselves a hard fought 30-5 win.

Rhys Butler was awarded player of the day and Leon James took the fair play award for being the first to volunteer to help out Exmouth, who were short on numbers.

SB

## Two good wins for the Pencoed FC under-12s

**PENCOED** travelled to Cefn Cribwr for a mid week fixture.

Within five minutes, Lewis Butler cut through to score a fine individual goal, and soon after he scored his second.

Pencoed were keeping possession and Lewis soon completed his hat-trick, soon followed by a fourth!

Connor Goldsworthy was next to score with a lovely strike, and Jordan Burrows was next on the score sheet with a well-taken goal.

Pencoed kept the pressure on and Jordan Burrows got his second goal, giving Pencoed a 7-0 lead at half time.

Pencoed made changes at half time but continued to press. From a good through ball, Connor Goldsworthy went around the keeper and scored his second.

Cefn Cribwr started to pass the ball about but Lewis Butler stole it back and hit a fine shot to give him his fifth goal, and Jordan Burrows then completed his hat-trick.

Cefn Cribwr never stopped trying and scored, making it 10-1, but Mason Roach hit a fine goal to finish the game at 11-1.

**Pencoed**

V

Pencoed were hosts to

## There were ups and downs at Uplands!

**PORHCawl** under-10s welcomed Swansea Uplands and, after several dry days, the South Road pitch was perfect for running rugby.

Swansea started the stronger with a few sorties into the Green and Blacks territory, but couldn't capitalise on the early pressure.

Unfortunately for the Uplands, that was to be their best period of the game. Porthcawl's pack soon took control and started to dominate the rucks and mauls.

Mason Roach was next on the score sheet with a long range shot, and Lewis Butler hit his second just before half time. Pencoed led 7-0 at half time.

Some changes were made at half-time and within five minutes, Evan Price scored with a lovely strike, followed by one from Kieran Heath.

Brynnna didn't give up and fought hard to keep Pencoed out but a fine cross from Connor Goldsworthy was met by Evan Price, who headed in a great goal.

Jordan Burrows completed his hat-trick as did Lewis Butler.

With only minutes left Brynnna scored for a final score of 12-1.

CG

converted by Brandon Cooper.

**Final score:** Porthcawl 56 Swansea Uplands 0

Man of the match was Louis Protheroe

### SECOND GAME

This was a totally different affair, with the Uplands only making three changes from the first game, and Porthcawl changing nearly the whole team.

Swansea started well, scoring four tries with no reply. Brandon Cooper, trying to make the score line more respectable, crossed next for a fine individual try.

Connor Harrington-Pittam touched down soon after and it looked as though there was going to be a fight back but it was short lived, as The Uplands notched up a fifth and final try.

**Final score:** Porthcawl 14, Swansea Uplands 47.

Brandon and Connor Harrington-Pittam converted the Porthcawl tries.

Man of the match was Lloyd Mortimer Rest of Porthcawl squad: Ethan Waters, Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Callum Morgan, Matthew Roberts, Zakk Furness-Jones, Max Budding, Kurtis Pridmore, Ben Davies, Sam Edwards.

IB

AS recently reported in The GEM, teams from the South Wales Police and the Welsh Guards recently played a charity match in aid of the Help for Heroes charity.

The match, which was played at the police's Waterford Cross home, was also in memory of Lance Corporal Dane Elson, who was killed in Afghanistan while serving with the Welsh Guards.

Dane, who came from Pencoed, had played rugby for both the police and the guards.

In fact, his father, Stuart, turned out for the police team on a muddy night – as can be seen from the presentation photo (right).

The match raised £700 for the Help for Heroes charity.

## Match in the mud raises cash for Help the Heroes



ABOVE: Steven Cottrell, the president of South Wales Police RFC, presents a cheque to Stuart and Alison Elson.

## Porthcawl under-12s remain at the top of the table

THIS was a 'must win' match for Porthcawl

Athletic under-12s against one of only two teams that could displace them.

For the first time this season, Porthcawl had a full turn-out and it was great to see the return of Jak Robbins, who has played only one game since before Christmas.

Corus played hard and physical. Strengthened by two former Port Talbot players, they looked full of confidence. However, just 15 minutes into the game, Porthcawl opened the scoring with a powerful shot from Dylan Hockridge.

This advantage was swiftly negated when Corus came back within minutes to put a weak shot past keeper Ben Cannon.

Porthcawl played a risky 3-4-3 formation and could not stop the Corus strikers from threatening repeatedly. Fortunately, the strong boots of Connor

Hockridge, Connor Gillingham and Connor Jones kept the ball well away from the six yard box.

Some beautiful passes from the midfield players set Porthcawl forwards off on half a dozen sorties in their goalmouth, but by half-time it was still one goal a-piece.

In the second half, Rob Davis was substituted by Ryan Haney to add some fire power up front. Four superb crosses into the box in just 10 minutes showed just how vulnerable Corus were.

With pressure building, the Marlins were sniffing for their second and it came when a desperate clearance from Corus saw the ball land at Rhidian Nelson's feet. A well-timed shot, 24 yards out, sizzled past an outstretched keeper to put Porthcawl in the lead.

For the remainder of the game, Porthcawl kept most of the possession and camped in the Corus half. Corus fought hard but 10

minutes from time, after substituting injured Ryan Haney with Ryan Matthews, the fresh pair of legs put Corus under more pressure.

With just five minutes to full time, a beautiful through ball from Connor Jones to George Beale was deftly side-passed onto Jorge Crofts to beat their last defender and Jorge headed clinically with a well-placed ball for a well-deserved 3-1 win.

Well done to all the Marlins, for an excellent team effort, showing once again that they are a strong footballing side, capable of beating anyone on their day!

Follow Porthcawl Athletics' progress on <http://www.porthcawlathletic.co.uk/>

JN

## Tondu RFC under-10s face formidable festival foes

THE Tondu Rugby Festival took place for the second year, and the home under-10s faced some tough opposition.

Tondu started the day with a game against the eventual winners of the under-10s trophy, Pentrech.

Tondu started brilliantly with some strong tackling from Jamie Richards, and he deservedly opened the Tondu account with a good try.

Pentrech came back from this early setback and scored twice ahead of the break, before increasing their lead with three unanswered tries in the second half.

The Tondu youngsters showed glimmers of what could be but against a more hungry side were unable to increase their score.

**Tondu 5 Pentrech 25.**

Next up for Tondu

was Briton Ferry, who took the lead early on with a try. Tondu tried hard to get on the front foot, but were that tiny bit slower to the breakdown and so struggled to go forward.

Again there were some fine tackles made by the Tondu backs, and Ferry only scored once more before half time.

Tondu started brilliantly with some strong tackling from Jamie Richards, and he deservedly opened the Tondu account with a good try.

Pentrech came back from this early setback and scored twice ahead of the break, before increasing their lead with three unanswered tries in the second half.

The Tondu youngsters showed glimmers of what could be but against a more hungry side were unable to increase their score.

**Tondu 5 Pentrech 25.**

Next up for Tondu

NHSOB opened the scoring, finishing the first half with three tries. The second half saw a more cohesive team effort from Tondu and they were unlucky to concede two more tries.

However an improving performance saw Tondu get their rewards as Ben Merchant crossed the try line in the closing minutes of the game.

**Tondu 5 NHSOB 25.**

The final game was against Bridgend Athletic. The first half started with an early score for the Athletic, as again Tondu struggled to get enough players to the breakdown to keep the ball.

However, Tondu's defence were able to soak up a lot of pressure, until the largest of the Bridgend Athletic squad drove over from close range. Athletic then scored two further tries before the break.

The second period came, and suddenly

Tondu were retaining their own and stealing the opposition ball at the ruck. This resulted in a try for Taylor Lloyd.

The new found vigour kept the pressure on Bridgend Athletic but Tondu were unable to add to their score.

**Tondu 5 Bridgend Athletic 20.**

**Tondu squad:** Ben Merchant, Megan Flaherty, Shannon Price, Josh Davies, Garryn Thomas, Callum Booton, Ioan Thomas, Taylor Lloyd, Morgan David, Jordan Morgan, Ryan Kershaw, Jack Llewellyn, Morgan-Owen Evans, Eleri Knight, Jamie Richards, Josh Evans and Iwan Knight (who couldn't play due to injury).

A massive 'thank you' must go to the junior and mini section committee for all their hard work in organising the event.

JK

# Easter celebrations at Oak Field Primary School had eggsacting task for the judges

PUPILS at Oak Field Primary School, Barry, had a wonderful last day of term by holding their annual Easter hat parade.

The standard of entries as usual was excellent, and judges found it very difficult to pick three winners from each year group who all received an Easter egg and certificate.

Well done to all the pupils and their parents for all their hard work.

SARAH DI TOMASO  
(Assistant headteacher)



# Bridgend Athletic under-9s take Tondu tournament title



ABOVE:

The victorious Bridgend Athletic under-9 squad with their trophies.

**THE fixture season is now over for the Bridgend Athletic under-9s and it is time for the end of season tournaments.**

It was arranged for the Ath Yellows to play an away fixture, so they joined Pontyclun and Kenfig Hill in a round robin event at Pontyclun.

This year with fine weather forecast, the Ath Greens took part in the Tondu tournament.

**Game One** – Briton Ferry were the Ath's first opponents and straight from the start, both sides were up for the battle.

It was the Ath who took advantage in the first half, with two tries from the forwards, via Thomas Anthony and Teo Fillis.

In the second half, Ferry kept Ath contained and scored, but it was to be their only try.

**Full time score Ath 2, Briton Ferry 1.**

**Game Two** – Second up were Aberavon Quins and it was another fierce encounter. The Quins

seemed to have a little more streetwise tactics, but the Ath went into half-time with a 1-0 lead, after a try from Thomas Anthony.

In the second half, both sides put in some hard tackles. Ath were working hard to hold onto their lead. Then, with the final whistle looming, the Quins broke free and scored, making the final score 1-1.

**Game Three** – The next game was against the hosts Tondu, a side the under-9s had not played before, even though they were a local side.

With future fixtures already planned for next season, both sides wanted to win this game. The two sides started off well, exchanging tries but it was the Ath who then stepped up a gear and took a half-time lead of 4-2, with two tries coming from the backs; Daniel O'Sullivan and Connor Fabian, and the other two from forwards Teo Fillis and Thomas Anthony.

In the second half, the Ath were determined and managed to keep out Tondu, denying them any further tries and notching up two more tries of their own, through Daniel O'Sullivan, who went in for his hat trick.

**Final score Ath 6, Tondu 2.**

**Game Four** – The final, and a must win game for the Ath if they wanted to lift the title, was against Newport HSOSB, who also needed to win to be in with any chance of taking the cup home.

So the game turned out to be the toughest battle so far. Both sides fought with true grit, determination and absorbed the pressure thrown at them, resulting in a half-time score of 0-0.

After working their hearts out in the first half, the Ath youngsters dug deep and managed to find another gear from somewhere, scoring two consecutive tries, by Teo Fillis and Daniel O'Sullivan.

Newport were not ready to give up, far from it, and they did manage to cross the line, for a consolation try.

The final score was 2-1 to the Ath, making them Tondu 2010 Tournament, under-9s champions.

The Ath were presented with the winners cup, by two Osprey players (both came up through the age groups at Bridgend Athletic), Rhys Webb and Scott Baldwin.

**Squad:** Gwilym John (captain), Jack Obbard, Ffion Revil, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Louis King, Jade Thomas, James Hermolle, Sam Veasey, Kasari Mehta, Daniel O'Sullivan, Jamie Marshall and Connor Fabian.

There were plenty of

positive comments from the opposition coaches, and about one player in particular, Bridgend Athletic's player of the tournament, Daniel O'Sullivan.

PO

Hill then took complete control of the game and some slick passing led to centre Marc Fitzgerald scoring under the posts, with outside-half Gareth Lewis converting.

Quins outside-half Gareth Lewis secured the three points – but it was to be their last score!

Kenfig Hill then took complete control of the game and some slick passing led to centre Marc Fitzgerald scoring under the posts, with outside-half Gareth Lewis converting.

A break by back row forward Matthew Bater led to a try for No 8 Thomas Maund, converted by Lewis.

## KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

# Mules run riot against under-strength Quins



ABOVE: No 8 Thomas Maund on the way to his try.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER GILLING.

Further woes beset the Quins when they lost a player through injury, but he returned after treatment.

There were two moments of magic by winger Steve Shalders with a brace of tries (both converted by Lewis). Scrum-half Tom Briggs then scored a fine individual try with Lewis again adding the conversion.

This gave a half-time score of: Kenfig Hill 35 Maesteg Quins 3.

At the start of the second half, Kenfig Hill full-back Ray Evans made another telling break, Gareth Lewis picking up the final pass to score, and he converted his own try. Matthew Bater then made a spectacular run to score, converted by Lewis.

Kenfig then eased off and the Quins started to put pressure on the Mules line, but centre Chris Tossell intercepted to run the length of the field to score, again with Lewis converting.

Porthcawl took the lead against the run of play, when Sam McCarthy latched on to a back pass, rounded the keeper and slotted home.

The score remained the same at half-time with both sides missing chances.

Porthcawl took the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half and doubled their lead when Sean Fisher, making his debut, slotted home from a cross by Evans Jones.

They went three up when Sam Mac was again through on goal and he lashed an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

Gwynfi then pulled one back with 15 minutes to go, but it was only as a consolation, as five minutes later, Sean Fisher scored his second, calmly slotting home when through on one with the Gwynfi 'keeper to finish the game at Porthcawl B 4 Gwynfi B 1.

The game was referred excellently by Mr Ryan Thomas.

MB

Despite being 5-4 down at the half-time interval, the under-7s dug deep and secured possibly their best win of the season by 7-6.

George Buckley ran beautifully each time he took possession and screamed away from the opposition for his 15th try of the season. Jack Davies (three), Alex Underhill (two) and Oliver Pinches once again performed magic tricks to get their names on the scoresheet.

Amazingly hard-working throughout the game were defensive organiser Connor John, assured all-round Luke Tozer and speedster Liam Evans. These are three exceptional team players.

## NEATH ATH 10 KENFIG HILL UNDER-12s 29

THE Kenfig Hill under-12s completed a season double win away to Neath Athletic.

The young Mules used their speed of pace and slick handling to produce a 10-29 win.

The Mules first opened the scoring with Sam Comley, who raced in at the corner after quick forward ball and clean passing. This was followed up by tries by Josh Dixon, Ross Hooper, and a further try by Sam Comley.

Neath Ath responded with a well-worked try from a penalty which found the Mules' defence a little asleep.

At half-time it looked as the young Mules may run away with the game, but Neath came back strongly, asking lots of questions of the Mules' defence, which leaked one further try.

In the last quarter, flying outside-half Liam Evans intercepted a Neath move to race three-quarters of the pitch to score under the post to secure the win.

Pick of the forwards were Ethan Jenkins and Nathan Herbert putting good performances in the tight, with Ellis Sims and Cameron Rees in the backs with their good defensive work.

GO'S

## Missing woman: police appeal



**POLICE are appealing for information on the whereabouts of a 19-year-old woman who has been reported missing from her home in Pencoed.**

Ceri Roxanne Brocklebank, who also uses the surname Burnell, was last seen on March 6.

Police believe she may have intended to travel to the north of England to seek employment.

Ceri is described as white, 5ft 5ins tall, collar-length brown straight hair, and of medium/stocky build.

Detective Inspector Sue Sidford of Bridgend Police Station, said: "Ceri has been missing for a long time now and still hasn't contacted her fami-

ly in Bridgend, which is out of character for her.

"We're appealing to the public to contact us if they have information and are also appealing to Ceri to contact us, or her family, to let us know she is safe."

"We believe Ceri is using a grey Alfa Romeo car and may also be in the company of an older man."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend Police Station on telephone 101 or 01656 655 555.

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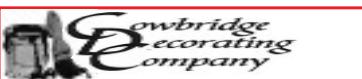
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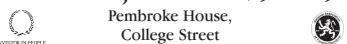
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**CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS  
AA WELSH SPORTSHALL FINALS****Unlucky George misses out on Welsh record**

**Members of the Cardiff & the Vale Schools team, including Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cowbridge) enjoyed taking part in the Welsh Sportshall finals.**

**THERE were mixed fortunes for the nine Vale pupils who competed for the Cardiff & the Vale Schools team at the recent Aviva Welsh Sportshall Finals at Cwmbran Stadium.**

The competition is a team event for the eight schools' districts in Wales, with two age groups – under-13 (years 7 and 8) and under-15 (years 9 and 10).

At under-13, athletes are restricted to a maximum of two individual events – one track and one field – and the team size is limited to a maximum of 12.

At under-15, there is an all-rounder competition with each athlete competing in one of two events in three groups. For boys, the groupings are two laps or four laps, standing long jump or standing triple jump, and shot or speed bounce, while in the girls' competition, groupings are the same, with the one change being the vertical jump replacing the standing triple jump.

Athletes gain points based on their ranking in each event.

The winning team in each section qualifies to represent Wales at the UK Sportshall Finals at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

For Welsh Schools' combined events international Matthew Roan, there was disappointment. A groin injury incurred in the under-15 2 laps time-trials resulted in the year-10 St Cyres pupil being advised by his team manager to withdraw rather than risk possible further damage.

Two selection gambles in the under-13 boys' team had vastly different outcomes. Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) had competed in the 2 laps event at the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' competition, but he was selected for the 4 laps at these Welsh finals, and it paid off as the year-7 pupil beat the best of year-8 in both heat and final to claim the title.

For his Cowbridge team-mate, George Griffiths, there was disappointment. At the Cardiff & the Vale Schools competition, the talented year-8 sprinter and long jumper had won three events – 2 laps, standing long jump and high jump.

With pupils restricted to only two events at

these finals, the selectors opted to include him in the 2 laps and high jump competitions. He competed well in both events, but had to settle for silver medals.

To add to the disappointment, he was allowed to compete as a non-scoring athlete in the standing long jump, and produced a best leap of 2.62 metres, a distance which would have been good enough to win and been a new Welsh age group best.

The Cowbridge duo gained a further medal, a bronze, in the 4 x 2 laps relay.

There was a second gold medal for Cowbridge in the under-13 girls standing long jump. At the Cardiff & the Vale Schools championships, Izzy Eddy-Williams had finished fourth in the standing long jump with a best distance of two metres but, at Cwmbran, she went way beyond that mark, leaping to 2.27 metres to win by two centimetres from her team-mate Claire Taylor (Radyr).

In the under-15 girls section, Cowbridge provided four of the seven girl team. Year-10 Romy Killick, the Cardiff & the Vale Schools all rounder champion, was the top placer, finishing 12th out of the 43 scoring athletes.

Results of Vale pupils:  
**Under-15 boys** – Years 9 and 10: Team: - 4th (506); Matthew Roan (St Cyres) (2 Laps – 24.8; Shot – 9.18m).  
**Under-13 boys** – Years 7 and 8: Team: - 5th (544); George Griffiths (Cowbridge) (60 (2 Laps – 2nd – 24.6 (30); High Jump – 2nd – 1.50m (30); non scoring Standing Long Jump – 2.62m; Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) (54 (4 Laps – 1st – 53.5 (32); High Jump – 6th – 1.35m (22); 4 x 2 Laps relay – 3rd – 1:43.9 (60); 4 x 1 Lap Obstacle relay – 5th – 54.8 (30); 8 Lap Paarlauf – 1st – 1:32.0 (40); 8 Lap Paarlauf – 4th – 1:53.3 (50)).

**Under-15 girls** – Team: - 4th (490); 12th Romy Killick (Cowbridge) (107 (2 Laps – 26.5 (33); Speed Bounce – 72 (34); Standing Long Jump – 2.17m (40); 14th Caitlin Allin (Cowbridge) (100 (2 Laps – 26.5 (33); Speed Bounce – 70 (26); Vertical Jump – 51 (41); 28th Katie Wynne



**Year-7 Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) on his way to victory in the under-13 4 laps event.**

she too was the fourth Welsh scorer.

Stanwell sixth former Owen Haswell has endured an injury-ridden last 12 months. He has done remarkably well to return to action over the country, and to gain selection for the Welsh Schools under-20 team against Welsh Athletics at the Inter Association match within the Aviva Home Countries international, organised by English Athletics at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

Sadly, this was one race too far for Haswell and although he started, on the advice of his team manager, he withdrew from the race before the finish.

**Words PETER MORRIS Pictures IAN DIXON**

**Sully Sports junior teams' French tour is a sparkling success**

**Sully Sports RFC has a 22 year twinning history with Fecamp Rugby Club, Normandy.**

This season, three groups from Fecamp RC made the trip to Barry for the Wales v France Six Nations game, and last weekend the Sully Sports RFC under-11s and under-12s travelled to Fecamp to continue this twinning relationship, taking an early part in Fecamp RC's 40th anniversary celebrations.

A club delegation will travel to Fecamp at the end of this month to join in the formal celebrations.

The youngsters, accompanied by their coaches and a band of parents, had an early 3am departure from the Sully Clubhouse on Friday, but they were full of energy and spirit.

Arriving in Fecamp early Friday afternoon, the party strolled past the harbour down to the beach for a game of football.

In the evening, they were given a reception by the Mayor of Fecamp and the President of Fecamp RC, returning to their accommodation well fed and watered.

The next morning, the boys spent a couple of hours in the town centre, its streets full of the Saturday market stalls. Fecamp RC provided a wonderful lunch – SSRFC wondered as to whether this was the usual good hospitality or intended to gain an advantage by feeding the boys up prior to playing the arranged rugby games!

Disappointingly, when the under-11s and under-12s got to the stadium, the players waiting were unmatched in

age groups, resulting in an unexpected format of games.

The under-11s played a five-minute each way game, in a four-a-side tag rugby format on a very small pitch.

Although the Sully Sports players ranged from nine to 11, the Fecamp group were mainly eight and nine year olds, so even playing a whole different way, Sully Sports were triumphant, but the smaller, younger Fecamp team were to be commended for the enthusiasm and spirit.

The boot was on the other foot with the under-12s, as they played a team that was older, bigger and quicker, as well as playing a slightly formal of laws.

Despite this, in a fast open game, the Sports won the battle of possession and territory, only to be outdone by tries created from turnovers and different laws on kicking.

The Sports never gave up, showing great courage and spirit against their physically larger opponents.

Following after-match refreshments and presentations, the party were taken in the evening to a National Basketball League game between Fecamp US and ASA Seauxa, which was an exciting and different experience for the Sports.

On Sunday morning, the Sports were treated to even more excitement when they visited the local adventure park.

With appetites now

ravenous, it was off to the Fecamp RC Clubhouse for a magnificent array of food, including a BBQ – cooked by visiting guest chef Alistair Davies – and fond farewells.

On the way back to the homeward ferry, the party enjoyed a couple of hours of 10-pin bowling and pool, with the boys still full of energy, spirit and competitiveness.

The ferry home proved a lot different to the one outward, as the weather in the channel was on the choppy side, with the crew soon issuing plenty of sick bags, and many of the party finding that they were not sea dogs after all.

Sully Sports RFC wish to record the pride in their under-11s and under-12s, who were true tourists and great ambassadors for the club, Welsh rugby and the Vale.

Coaches Alistair Davies, John Stafford and Ray Gallivan were so proud of their teams, and deserved praise and thanks for all their hard work with the boys, and in putting together this

successful tour.

All the parents are also thanked for their support for the sons and the club, and those who did not go on the tour will soon learn from those who did, what a great time and experience missed by not going on the trip.

Finally, everyone wishes to re-iterate its heartfelt thanks to Fecamp Rugby Club for the welcome, hospitality and hard work put in to ensure such a memorable tour – special thanks go to Christine, Christian, Julien, club president Francois and his good wife, and the many other club members involved.

Old friendships were renewed and new ones were started.

The junior section's annual presentation evening will take place at the Sully Clubhouse on May 9, starting at 5pm.

**Cowbridge RFC under-12s are tested by 'Nant'**

**C O W B R I D G E under-12s entertained Nantffyllon RFC under-12s for the first time in what proved to be a very testing match.**

Ben Jones picked up the ball on the halfway line and dodged at least five tackles to run to the ball to make it 22-10.

Miles Davies then scored under the posts from halfway.

The final score was 27-13 and was a great preparation for next week's Blues Cup semi-final against Penarth.

A big thank you to Nantffyllon and we hope to arrange regular seasonal fixtures with them in the future.

**Full squad:** *Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Tom Evans, Ben Jones, Frazz McGhan, Rob David, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Jonny Harvey, Gabriel Newham, Rian Thomas, Harvey Stockford, Matt Harper and Miles Davies.*

**Under-9s and under-8s**

The under-8s and under-9s competed in their district tournaments.

Both sides put up creditable performances and progressed to the semi-final stages of the tournament.

The under-8s played some great rugby throughout the day but lost out by the odd score in a seven-try thriller in the semi-final.

The under-9s also played some superb rugby, before eventually losing out to tournament hosts Llanishen in their semi-final.

**What's on and where, around and about?****China hunt**

**THE All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, will hold a fundraising coffee morning in the church hall in aid of much-needed funds for new china and glassware,**

**on Saturday, April 17, starting at 10am-12noon. Entrance 50p.**

**Stalls include romance, fiction, thrillers and books for children; guess the weight of the cake; tombola and raffle.**

**Friends and Neighbours**

**ST PATRICK'S Day**

**was celebrated recently at the Senior Health Shop in Barry by**

**Friends and**

**Neighbours' senior citizen group, with a lunch**

**and potato soup, bread roll and cheese, with dessert to follows.**

**Friends and Neighbours welcome new members.**

**The next meeting will be held on April 21 at 2pm at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry. The cost is 50p, to include tea/coffee and cake. We have a varied programme for the year.**

**For further information, telephone Gay Fifield (secretary) on 01446 400044, or just go along!**

**Art demo**

**COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, April 22, at 7pm in Old Hall, High**

**Open the day before (same time) for donations to the sale of fabric and related items; or telephone 01446 773987 for assistance.**

**Admission is free.**

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 7-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 197g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 159g/km. Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 119 g/km.



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06 56 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 Design 5dr. Silver met, only 1,900 miles! New £8,975	<b>Ours £5,975</b>	<b>Saving £3,000</b>
06 56 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5dr. Met gold, only 3200 miles! New £14,336	<b>Ours £6,475</b>	<b>Saving £7,861</b>
06 56 CITROEN C3 1.6 SX 5dr <b>AUTO</b> . Met blue, only 5200 miles! New £12,182	<b>Ours £6,475</b>	<b>Saving £5,707</b>
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 5dr Style Climate <b>AUTO</b> . Only 2,300 miles! New £11,275	<b>Ours £6,775</b>	<b>Saving £4,500</b>
56 06 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 5dr Life (A/C) Blue met, only 4,900 miles! New £14,975	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £8,000</b>
06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C <b>AUTO</b> 5dr. Panacotta, only 4,900 miles New £14,975	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £8,000</b>
06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, only 2,000 miles New £12,475	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £5,500</b>
06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 <b>AUTO</b> 5dr. Met mintgreen, only 4300 miles! New £17,172	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £10,197</b>
06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, only 2,500 miles New £11,475	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £4,500</b>
06 56 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Expression <b>AUTO</b> 5dr. Met blue, only 1760 miles! New £12,475	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £5,500</b>
06 56 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 5dr. Met black, only 2500 miles! New £10,975	<b>Ours £6,975</b>	<b>Saving £4,000</b>
06 56 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.65 dr Life (A/C) Blue met, only 1,500 miles New £14,975	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £7,500</b>
06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, only 4,500 miles! New £16,795	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £9,000</b>
58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style <b>AUTO</b> . Red met, only 1,000 miles! New £11,275	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £3,500</b>
06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique <b>AUTO</b> . Gold met, only 2,700 miles New £16,975	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £9,500</b>
06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate <b>AUTO</b> . Blue met, only 3,700 miles New £11,475	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £4,000</b>
06 56 FORD C-Max 2.0 Zetec <b>AUTO</b> MPV. Blue met, only 4,500 miles New £17,475	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £10,000</b>
06 56 FORD Focus 1.6 Sport 5dr. Blue met, only 5,600 miles New £13,975	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £6,500</b>
08 58 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5dr. Blue met, only 3,000 miles! New £10,175	<b>Ours £7,475</b>	<b>Saving £2,200</b>
09 58 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life (A/C). Silver met, only 741 miles New £12,975	<b>Ours £8,475</b>	<b>Saving £4,500</b>
09 58 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr Hatch. Black met, only 2,600 miles New £10,475	<b>Ours £8,475</b>	<b>Saving £2,000</b>
08 08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 5dr SE. Blue met, only 4,800 miles! New £11,475	<b>Ours £8,975</b>	<b>Saving £2,500</b>
09 09 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 5dr Life. Silver met, only 1,700 miles! New £14,975	<b>Ours £9,475</b>	<b>Saving £5,500</b>
09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club <b>AUTO</b> . Silver met, only 400 miles! New £11,975	<b>Ours £9,475</b>	<b>Saving £2,500</b>
09 09 CITROEN Berlingo 1.6 HDi 5dr VTR. Blue met, only 2,200 miles! New £12,475	<b>Ours £9,975</b>	<b>Saving £2,500</b>
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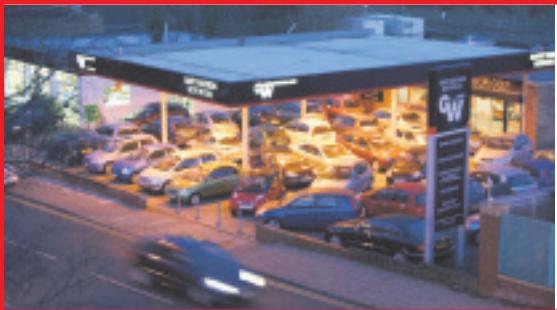
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53 MERCEDES 320CLK Auto.	In light met blue with charcoal leather trim, host of extras on this sports coupe	£7,995
52 MERCEDES ML 270 CDi.	In black with grey leather trim, 91,000 miles, heated seats, climate control etc	£7,995
05 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC.	In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible at	£6,995
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57 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus.	In steel blue, 37,000 miles, fantastic value at	£4,795
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08 58 FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5-dr.	
Squeeze metallic, alloys, air con, cd	£10495

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08 08 FIESTA 1.4i TDCi Style 3-dr	
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Alloys, air con, cd, full electrics

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Air con, alloys, cd

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Air con, cd, alloys, electrics

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Air con, full electrics, cd

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5-dr Alloys, air con, cd

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Durashift Auto. Air con, alloys, cd

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Alloys, air con, cd, choice

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Half leather, alloys, climate control

£6795

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Alloys, cruise, cd, air con

£4695

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Full leather, air con, alloys

£4995

**04 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique**

5-dr. Cd, pas, sunroof

£4495

**04 54 PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Independent**

3-dr. Alloys, cd

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# GEM sport

## ONE POINT WIN SECURED IN NAIL-BITING CLIMAX ATHLETIC STILL WIN – with three in the bin!

AFTER stumbling to defeat at Carmarthen Athletic last Saturday, Bridgend Athletic were hoping to return to winning ways against the team two places and three points above them in the league.

The away fixture at Bonywaen at the end of February had been a very competitive affair, with the Ath managing to come out winners by 19-14.

With a light breeze behind them and in perfect conditions, the visitors kicked off and immediately went on the attack. Then, at the next scrum, Athletic half-back Aled Thomas stole the ball and the home team managed to work their way almost to halfway. There followed a couple of drives that were well supported, but then a penalty was given away, which Bonywaen put to touch just on the Ath 10 metre line.

Almost immediately, another penalty was given away and Bonywaen's outside-half Warlow sent the ball sailing between the posts. First blood to the visitors.

From the restart, the ball went loose to outside-half Steve Lewis, whose break was carried on by Tom Morgan before Bonywaen gave away a penalty which Lewis slotted to equalise.

At the restart, the Athletic went back on the attack and props Rod Jones and Matthew Norman scrummaged well to force Bonywaen back, where blind-side flanker Bija entered from the side to kill the ball and earn himself a 10-minute rest. Lewis



*Aled Thomas outpaces the defence to score the Athletic try.*

### Photos courtesy of Kerry Fothergill.

kicked the penalty.

Scrum-half Thomas was proving to be a thorn in the side of Bonywaen as he made two telling breaks, one of which right wing Jon Nation was almost able to develop into a score.

Full-back Mike Hathaway was strong under the high ball and always willing to counter-attack.

It was from one such return that Bonywaen were off-side, allowing Lewis to kick his third penalty. In addition, locks Sean Williams and Tom Penry-Ellis were dominating line-out ball for the Athletic, ensuring a plentiful supply of possession.

Bonywaen were not going to give an inch and were excellent all afternoon in driving forward through their pack, well-marshalled by scrum-half Luniff.

Hooker Clancy impressed in his solid work when receiving kick-offs, as did captain

Powell in chasing them. It was from more good play at the kick-off that Bonywaen drove into the Athletic territory to be awarded a penalty opportunity that Warlow did not let pass by this time.

Bridgend Athletic stretched their lead back to six points when a long kick was dropped by Bonywaen wing Thorne, and the scavenging Chris Whitcombe was there to force the penalty for failing to release. Lewis again slotted over the kick.

Bonywaen continued to play well and when Dan Apsee fumbled a kick, they took a strong foothold in Athletic territory. The home side were reduced to 14 men when a silly infringement by Apsee saw him sent to the bin just before half-time for the second week running.

Worse was to follow in the second half when Chris Whitcombe joined

### BRIDGEND ATHLETIC BONYWAEN

Apsee on the side lines for an infringement at a ruck after another solid defensive tackle by Hywel Davies had halted a Bonywaen attack. Warlow kicked the penalty to pull the deficit back to three points.

With the Athletic down to 13, Bonywaen saw more of the ball but were reduced to trying to drive through their forwards or kick to attack, as their midfield backs were being completely snuffed out by Davies and Lindsay MacCausland.

Just as Apsee rejoined the fray, captain Rod Jones was unfortunate to receive his 10-minute rest for an adjudged late tackle when Warlow chipped ahead. When Whitcombe returned, the Athletic surged into the attack but Lewis's decision to drop a goal allowed Bonywaen to clear their lines. From the next lineout, the Athletic tried to drive out of defence only to become isolated and give away another penalty, that Warlow slotted over to level the scores at 12 a-piece.

At last, the Athletic were restored to 15 men. Matthew Hillman and Jamie Doherty replaced Penry-Ellis and Morgan, and the Bridgend side raised the tempo, with hooker Simon Mustoe prominent in driving and supporting, and wing Rod Davies making some strong incursions.

A promising attack broke down as Apsee knocked on, but a powerful effort at the resulting scrum forced Bonywaen to kick loosely out of defence. Many thanks to match sponsor Phil McCordle. Next week, the Athletic host table-toppers Tonmawr, the only team in the division with a better record than Bridgend Athletic in 2010.

## 'Long rest' for State of Play

by BRIAN LEE

LANCARFAN'S Evan Williams was full of praise for his *State Of Play*, which finished a gallant third behind *Don't Push It* and *Black Apalachi* in Saturday's Grand National.

Evan will now prepare the 10-year-old for a third attempt next year. He said: "He's fine, he's grand, he stayed on well and he ran a very brave race and we're over the moon."

Jockey Paul Moloney said: "It was a serious run from a serious horse and he might win next year, God willing."

*State Of Play*, who had finished fourth the previous year, is still improving, says Evan, and his Hennessy Gold Cup winner will now have a long rest.



*Wing Rhodri Davies breaks a tackle with brother Hywel in support.*

## Porthcawl Athletic under-11 players take visit to Anfield



*ABOVE: Porthcawl under-11s visit the home of Liverpool FC.*

BOYS from Porthcawl Athletic under-11 teams recently visited Anfield for the day.

Although there were a few Man United supporters in the party (they wanted to see what the five European Cups looked like!) all the boys enjoyed a tour of the stadium, museum and the Liverpool shop.

This was reward for the boys' effort this season and coaches hope it will give some inspiration to their coming challenge in junior football next season.

Well done boys - keep it up.

SC

## Second team derby is keenly contested

### B R I D G E N D Athletic Seconds overcame stern resistance from their hosts, Tondu Seconds, in this Division One clash.

The game was evenly balanced in the first half, with the Athletic taking a six-point lead into the interval thanks to two penalties by outside half Tom Cole.

Allowing Bonywaen

to score gave them a losing bonus point, so that

although the two clubs

are now equal on points,

Bonywaen are still just

ahead on points scored.

With Corus also winning,

the Athletic stay in fifth just behind Bonywaen and Corus.

Many thanks to

match sponsor Phil

McCardle. Next week,

the Athletic host table-

toppers Tonmawr, the

only team in the division

with a better record than

Bridgend Athletic in

2010.

Athletic worked a blind-side move to put winger Warner over in the corner.

This was followed a few minutes later by a scorching break by centre Pemberton, resulting in a try for wing Nick Hinton.

Both sides were disrupted by the loss of their outside halves due to injury, but still maintained their appetite for attacking rugby.

Tondu fought back and after a period of pressure on the Athletic line, Graham Thomas crashed over to bring

Tondu back into the match. Parrot converted to bring the score to 16-7.

Substitute Athletic flanker Aled Guy made an immediate impression and scored a deserved try to extend the Athletic lead. Carle Ellis converted.

Tondu continued to press the Athletic defence and were rewarded with a late try by Craig Davies.

**Final score:** Tondu 12 Bridgend Athletic 23.

RH

## Pencoed Seconds test Llanharan

LLANHARAN Seconds came to the Recreation Ground as league winners, and with Pencoed not having had the best of seasons, the home support feared the worst.

However, Pencoed were in the game for long periods, but the fluency of the visitors was to prove the essential difference between the sides.

Pencoed started the match very well, taking a 10-0 lead. Aaron Songhurst opened the scoring, latching onto a fortuitous bounce to speed away from 60 metres to score. Carwyn Morgan converted, and then added a penalty goal.

Within a minute, Llanharan counter-attacked and swift handling saw them open their account with a converted try. A well-struck penalty from close on halfway saw them level at 10-10.

The visitors were now starting to put their game together, and following a number of phases, worked their right wing over in the corner to lead 15-10. A further penalty extended their lead.

The Pencoed front row of Rhys Morgan, Steve Potts, and Nicky Hawkins, well-supported by locks Dean Henson and James Murphy, were in the ascendancy at this juncture in the set scrum, though matters at the set did even up over the course of the match.

Again, a Llanharan counter from 70 metres was to bring them their next score, and they led at the break 25-10.

Both sides then added penalties for a scoreline of 28-16. Rhys Samuel intercepted a dangerous Llanharan attack, and together with back row colleagues Liam Evans and Paul Richards, contested possession at every opportunity. Matthew Dane went close for Pencoed following a kick and chase, before both sides swapped penalties for a final scoreline of 19-31.

For Pencoed, the pack gave as good as they got throughout, while the plus-ees behind the scrum were the return from injury of scrum-half Gareth Tyrrell, and the controlled display of outside-half Carwyn Morgan. TR